

**KNACK**

# **ASTROLOGY**

**A Complete Illustrated Guide to the Zodiac**

**MOLLY HALL**

**Illustrations by David Cole Wheeler**

# MAKE IT EASY!

From picking the right wedding date to understanding the mysteries of your own soul, astrology can be practical or other-worldly—it all depends where you take it. And it's no longer just for the mystically inclined! Enter *Knack Astrology*, the most visually stunning and informative astrology book there is. Featuring more than 400 full-color photos and illustrations, it begins with the cosmic clock, takes you through the signs and houses of the Zodiac, and teaches the basics of reading a birth chart. Chock-full of useful interpretations of signs, planets in signs, aspects, and synastry, it will give you sufficient understanding of astrological charts to begin creating your own.

**400+ full-color photos,  
astrological wheels & charts**

**Planets in Motion**

**Fertility & Sex \* Moon & Mood**

**Basic Wheel \* Rising Sign**

**Houses \* Reading Charts**

**Love & Creativity**

**Career & Life Purpose**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Coming back to life

Astrology is in the midst of a renaissance, as more people discover its universal truths. It's not just for the mystically inclined anymore. It's coming full circle as a study of the living currents of life, and being reintegrated in many disciplines. Astrology's tools can be used to pick the right wedding date or understand a nation's identity crisis. You can read up just on your Sun sign or probe the deeper mysteries of your soul. It's practical or otherworldly, depending on where you take it.

The deal with astrology is that it's not just about the distant twinkly stars and planets. It's also about the energetic life

forces that run through our lives, and of which we're a part. Astrology is rooted in the ancient observation that there's a mirroring between what goes on up there and what happens down here. Discovering how that works takes us to the heart of a great mystery, and can be a continual source of wonder.

Beginning with the first awestruck stargazers, astrology evolved as the study of living energies and the marking of time cycles. It presents major planets as archetypes whose larger-than-life influences have been conveyed through the ages in myth and art. Relating to such grand forces helps us see that our lives are epic dramas, too, full of heroes and villains, happy times and despair. As a symbolic language, astrology goes beyond the analytical mind to convey profound truths. That's why it's been called the Divine Art. It reflects the many dimensions of the psyche and soul, both the dark and the light.

## Seasons and rhythms

As the planets move against the backdrop of the zodiac, it's as if we on Earth have different mood lighting. And all along, the Sun and Moon, also known as "the Lights," keep time with their monthly and yearly journey from Aries to Pisces, around the zodiacal wheel. Instead of the idea that

time marches on, astrology shows us that time is not necessarily linear. The Luminaries embed us in a continual rhythm of waxing and waning that is a natural part of life.

Astrology's gift is to invite a perceptual shift. It allows us to step out of the artificial time of clocks and calendars, and reestablish intimacy with the celestial clock. It wasn't so long ago that people went to bed with the Sun and enjoyed a more natural synchronicity with the body's circadian rhythm. The Full Moon was a time to celebrate or harvest, while the Dark Moon was time to rest and dream. Coming home to a natural rhythm gives us an alternative to the manic human-made rhythm we try to follow.

And what we learn from the birth chart allows us to make choices based on our own energetic makeup. This liberates us from the pain of swimming against our own currents. We can engage with these forces consciously, through ritual, prayer, or our own creative expression. By doing so we dance with the forces of life and grow wise about their meaning. The birth chart has a story to tell, and the tools of astrology help us translate it.

## Discovering the real thing

Like most people, I grew up knowing my Sun sign, and occasionally read my 'scope in *Seventeen* magazine or the newspaper. The descriptions I encountered of my zodiac sign Cancer, with its traits of sensitivity, defensive behavior, and moodiness, seemed to fit me well enough. It wasn't until my Saturn return, when I experienced a soul-crushing breakup, that I sought out a deeper understanding of astrology. And I slowly began to see that there's so much more to it.

As a dating tool, astrology beats any "rules" book out there. If he's just not into you, it may be you're just not his Venusian ideal. Or if there's a love connection but not much passion your Mars signs might not be generating heat. The four elements—fire, water, air, and earth—go a long way toward explaining relationship chemistry and why certain

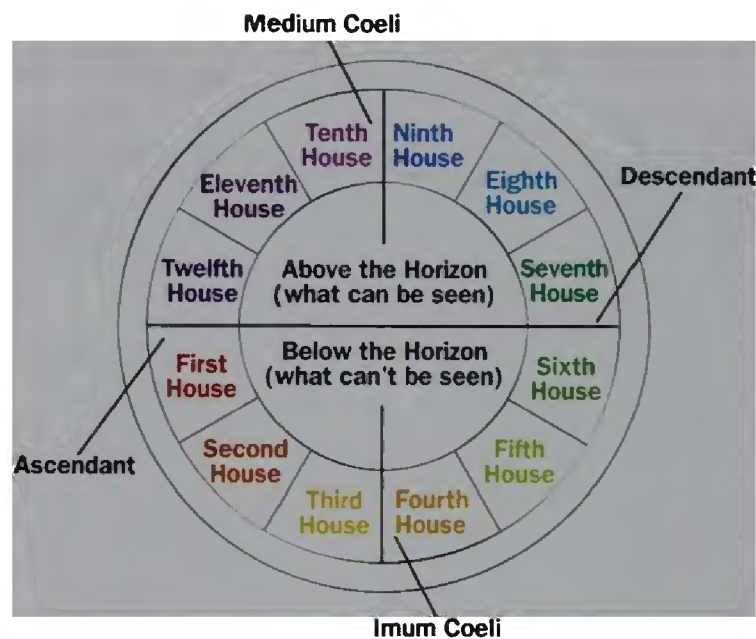
combinations are “combustible” The planets colliding in any love match suggest anything from shared life purpose to bad karma

Perhaps most illuminating is what we learn about ourselves in the process. *Why did I do that?* It’s paradoxical that we often understand life by looking in the rearview mirror. Events that shake us up get us thinking about patterns, especially ones that lock us in self-destructive behavior. The birth chart is a guide to self-knowledge, and it alerts us to areas where we’ll be tested. Life still happens, but astrology’s like having a light to shine on the path

## Why learn astrology yourself?

When you are anchored in self-knowledge, you’re more apt to see the recurring themes across time. Reading about your Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and other planets gives you a multidimensional picture of who you are. Your life mission is shaped by the energies present at the moment of your birth. It’s an intimate dialogue between you and the universe, and much of it goes on below the radar of conscious thought. Knowing how to understand your chart begins a lifelong journey to discover new layers of meaning.

It makes sense to keep an astrological day planner to be aware of the dynamics at play. These keep you tuned in to everything from the lunar phase to the daily transits. You’ll be reminded to hold off on coming to any conclusions until



the Mercury retrograde cycle is over, and the fog dissipates. You’ll see the fall melancholy as a kinship with nature’s dying time, and remember your place in the seasonal cycle.

## When to consult an astrologer

There are times when we lose all objectivity and need the help of a professional astrologer. You might supplement your own spiritual knowing with monthly or yearly sessions. The best way to find an astrologer is through word of mouth, from someone whose values match your own. But you may also find a reputable accredited astrologer online, or someone whose writings you resonate with.

Unfortunately, it’s a field where there’s a lot of room for scams and manipulation. Steer clear of anyone who claims

to know your future! The future is the life you're creating out of today. Anyone who uses fear to keep you hooked in should set off alarms. Before you schedule a session see if you can talk to the person to know whether you have the right chemistry. Try to get a sense of what to expect and whether you should prepare questions ahead of time.

## The search for meaning

Though my approach might seem spiritual in tone, I think it is just a reflection of the changing times. Astrology reveals that there's an order to the cosmos, and when you're aware of that, it inspires awe. There's a spiritual awakening under way in the world that involves rethinking the nature of time. And astrology puts us on the path to understanding.

As a study of time astrology's scope can be short or infinitely long, looking at epochal shifts marked by millennia. Many have a sense that we're in a great turning of the ages now. And there's a growing interest in taking the long view so that the breakdown and "death" of what we've known can be accepted with wisdom. There's comfort in knowing that every death eventually brings rebirth.

This book was written as a general guide, with the hope that it will inspire further exploration. This is an urgent time, and we're each being called to rise to the occasion. The best way to do that is to become your most fully realized Self, with the birth chart as your guide.



# DIVINE SCIENCE

To gaze up at the sky and see the face of God

The beginnings of astrology are intertwined with the history of human culture itself. Ancient Egyptians, Mayans, and others lived under a blanket of stars, observing the Sun, Moon, and fixed stars as living markers of the seasons and longer patterns. Observations of the moving sky told nomads when to move to the winter camp, or farmers when to plant their crops. The annual dance of the Moon and Sun was a built-in

## *The Zodiac*

Stone Age engravings dating to some 50,000 years ago show stars and constellations.

The Moon was the embodiment of the Great Mother Goddess, with her pull on the ocean, nature's growth, and women's reproductive cycles.

- The Sun's annual hero's journey of descent and return gave rise to myths and rituals intimately connected to the sustenance of life.
- The Babylonians saw that the planets moved against a background of fixed stars (constellations), known to us as the Zodiac.

calendar used to plan travel, harvests, and the best time for conceiving a child. Stories emerged within each society of forces in the guise of beasts, and godlike planets that interacted with life on Earth. The premise of astrology is "as above, so below."

When you see all life as energy, these greater cosmic forces become a mirror for the rhythms of life below. It's called a

## *Wheel of Fortune*

- The influence of the stars implies that fate or destiny predetermines our course in life.
- It's a topic of philosophical debate how much our free will offsets the fixed realities in the birth chart.
- Famed physician and

seer Nostradamus wrote that the celestial bodies dominate early life, but that we should try, through free will, to resist "evil effects."

- It's wise to be consciously aware of our own nature, while remembering that some things are beyond our control.

divine science because it employs an intuitive sight beyond the material plane. Today, astrology is being reintegrated as a tool of understanding the dimensions of reality beyond the physical. It's coming full circle, its wisdom reintegrated into fields such as medicine and psychology.

The earliest archaeological evidence of astrology comes from the Sumerian culture (modern-day Iraq). Carvings of constellations labeled the Bull, the Scorpion, and the Lion have been found dating to 4000 B.C. Cuneiform tablets detailed eclipses and omens. The Chaldeans of southern Babylon took this further, creating the first known star charts around 700 B.C.

## *Storytelling*

- The earliest peoples looked to the cosmic bodies, creating stories in which these beings lived lives parallel to those below.
- Many native legends saw the Pleiades star cluster as dancing seeds that revealed when to plant or harvest.
- The North Star, at the top of the Little Dipper, has long been used by travelers to determine latitude.
- Many cultures see the Milky Way as a pathway to the afterlife; the Chinese know it as the great heavenly river.

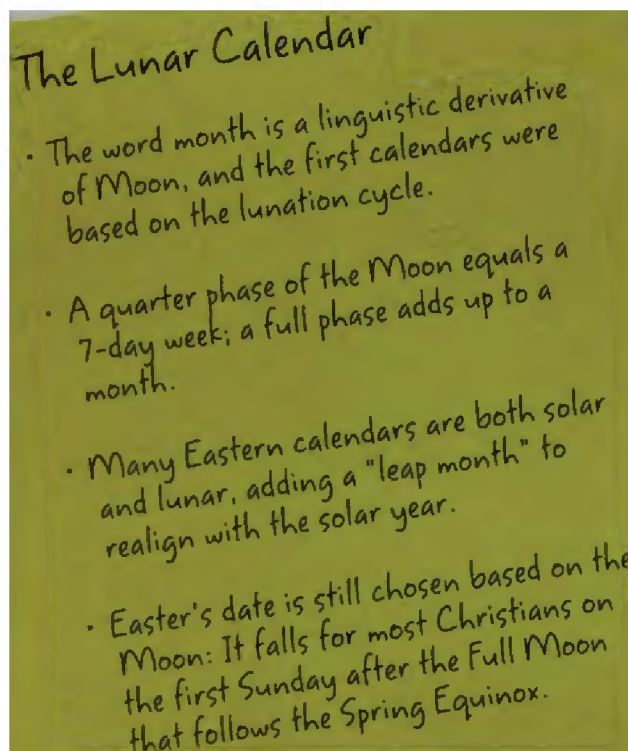
## *Astrologers*

- Babylonian court astrologers used charts to predict eclipses and other omens for the ruler-king.
- The Greeks popularized horoscopes, and their theories are still the foundation for chart interpretation.
- Twentieth-century psychologist Carl Jung used charts, and became convinced that astrology's archetypes were valid guides to character.
- Astrologers now see the horoscope as a tool for self-knowledge, and map to working with the cosmos to reach the highest potential.

The Moon is a natural start for any study of the heavens, since her cycles led to the very first calendars. Ancient cultures followed her rhythms closely, calling on her for blessings of rain, children, or a good harvest. We sometimes take her for granted as the reflector of the Sun's light. But it's the Moon's gravitational pull that holds the Earth on its tilted axis.

The cool Moon is Earth's closest companion, the yin to the hot Sun's yang; the two are known as the Luminaries. The Moon is intimately bound to the Earth's energy field. As she waxes, wanes, and moves through the signs of the zodiac, her rhythm changes. When you tune in, you see how the Moon's force is also in a dance with the Sun and other planets. But as

### *Visions of the Moon*



- There are 12, sometimes 13 Moons in a solar year. The earliest lunar calendars were bison horns, a symbol of the crescent moon, etched with 13 marks.
- The Moon has been seen as a protectress and nurturer of life on Earth, synonymous with the Mother Goddess.
- The matching rhythms of the Moon and menstrual cycle entwine into a sacred, mysterious way.
- The life-giving powers of women make each woman a living goddess, intimately bound to nature's cycles.

much as she changes, her constancy has been a comforting mirror of the eternal cycles of nature and our own souls. As a timepiece, she's helped travelers know how many Moons they've been on the road. She casts reflective light when we need it most, and is a symbol of intuition and dreams. The mysterious link with women's life-giving cycles has made the Moon an eternal totem of nature's creative power.

The Moon moves through a different sign of the zodiac about every 2½ days. The journey through all the twelve signs takes about 29½ days—nearly a month. Since the Moon rules emotion, she changes the atmosphere of each zodiac sign almost like a mood ring.

### *The Moon's Faces*

- English scientist Francis Bacon discovered that seeds sown at the New Moon grew up hardier than those cultivated at other times.
- Observers of the natural world have noted that ocean life is attuned to the lunar cycle, including spawning and migration patterns.
- The ocean's waters are drawn by the Moon's gravity, creating a monthly pattern of high and low tides. Early farmers could predict rain by looking at the Moon's face. They named each Full Moon to honor its agricultural season.

### *Celtic Triple Spiral*



- The Triple Spiral—a symbol found in relics and sites like Newgrange in Ireland—dates to the late Neolithic period.
- A prominent motif of the Celts, it's thought to depict the spiral of life with its rhythm of birth, death, and rebirth.
- It's often used to represent the female life cycle, from maiden to mother to crone.
- These life stages follow the Moon, and correspond to the transformation cycle of birth, growth, and decay.

# THE SOLAR YEAR

## The seasons of the Sun, and its influence on our culture and life cycles

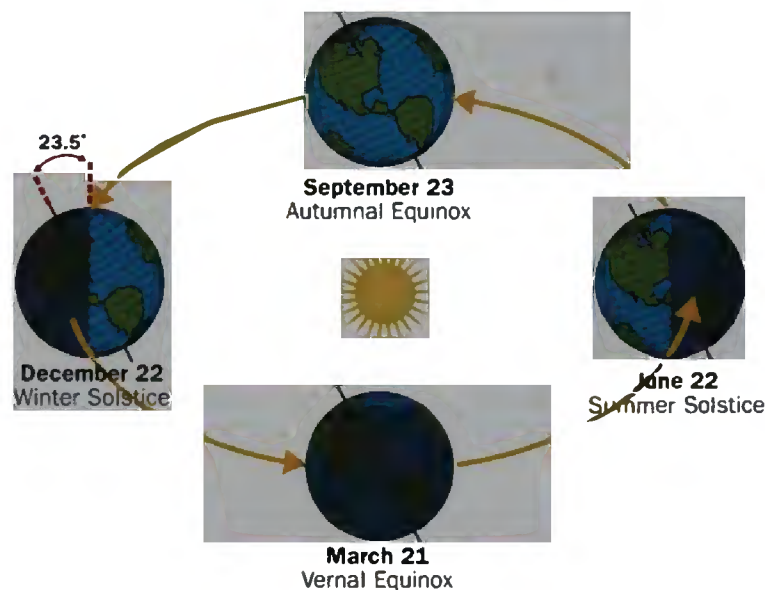
You might know that we have seasons because the Earth is tilted on its axis, with each hemisphere leaning either toward or away from the light. And this seasonal rhythm follows the astrological signs, beginning with Aries at the Spring Equinox. Lovers grow lusty, plant life explodes with color, and everyone seems restless to be part of spring. The season of

### *Stonehenge*

- Stonehenge in southern England is one of over 900 stone monuments across the British Isles. Its ruins date to around 3300 B.C.
- The midsummer Sun rises over the Heel Stone, though some researchers say it was originally laid out on the lunar axis.
- It's an astronomical observatory designed as a sacred site, to clock the annual Sun-Moon alignments.
- The cosmically attuned ancient Britons met here at turning points in the solar year for rituals and celebrations.

Aries lets loose that sudden surge we all feel, and is a mirror of this Sun sign's basic nature. The Spring Equinox is one of four turning points in the Solar Year, which continues with the Summer Solstice (Cancer), Fall Equinox (Libra), and Winter Solstice (Capricorn). On the natural wheel, these are the cardinal angles, and very significant points in any chart. As

### *The Solar Wheel*



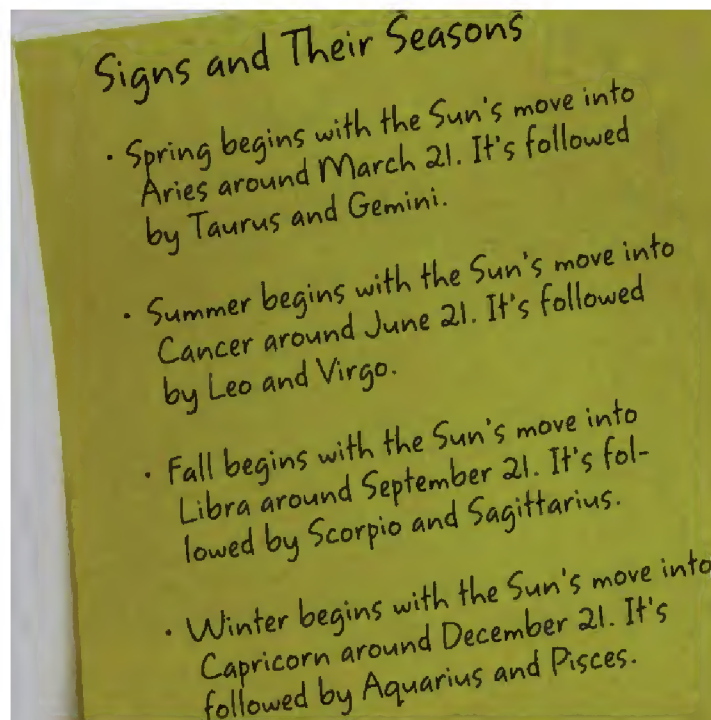
- Spring is the season of play and daring (Aries), cultivating (Taurus), and adapting to change (Gemini).
- Summer is the season of togetherness with family and friends (Cancer), festive sun worshipping (Leo), and the harvest (Virgo).
- Fall is the dying time, which many feel as a bittersweet melancholy. It's a season of pairing up (Libra), the mysterious (Scorpio), and inner light (Sagittarius).
- Winter is season of purpose (Capricorn), visioning for the future (Aquarius), and mystical union (Pisces).

a study of cycles, the solar year is symbolic of the zodiac's progression, a human life cycle, and the seasons of nature. Just like the Moon, the Sun has a birth, death, and rebirth cycle that has been mythologized and marked with ritual. At Winter Solstice, when the Sun's arc is lowest and the days are dark, there is an inward, deeply rooted, contemplative feel, not unlike the sign Capricorn. These turning points have been marked through history by feasts and celebrations.

### *Equinox and Solstice*

- The four seasonal turning points are the Spring and Fall Equinoxes and the Summer and Winter Solstices.
- Equinox means "equal night." On these days in spring and fall, the Sun is at a balance point, with days and nights of equal length.
- Solstice means "sun standing still." It marks the year's longest day in summer, and its shortest in winter.
- Each of these four cardinal cross points is a time to gather and celebrate the particular joys of the season.

Do you get a boost of well being when the Sun is in your season? It may be that your unique biological clock is activated under that particular quality of light. Your birthday is known as the solar return, and often it's a time of soul searching. The Sun's rays through your sign activate an internal source of guidance.





# LANGUAGE OF THE STARS

The words and symbols we use to talk about the cosmic patterns

The Greeks drew on the traditions of the Middle East to create the foundation of modern astrology. The word astrology comes from the Greek *astra*, meaning “star,” and *logos*, which means “word.” The observations made in ancient Greece led to the associations between the zodiac and the body. The father of medicine, Hippocrates, discovered how the signs differ on a physiological level. And the Greeks are credited

## *Hellenistic Legacy*

with creating personalized horoscopes based on the rising sign. This brought astrology to the people, instead of just the ruling elite.

The zodiac was organized into groupings by element and quality, and planets in certain signs or houses were said to be “exalted” or “in its fall.” The Greeks mythologized the planets, and assigned rulers as archetypal lords over each sign.

## *Cosmic Knowledge*

When the army of Alexander the Great overtook Mesopotamia in 334 B.C., the merging of two astrological traditions took place.

- Hellenistic astrology rose from that time on, with Greek-Babylonian influence spreading into Egypt and India.

- In Egypt, astrology as a study flourished, and individual horoscopes (from a word that means “hour marker” in Greek) were refined.

- The Greek-Roman god of light, Apollo, traveled through the 12 houses of heaven, or the monthly residences of Apollo.

- Ancient Rome integrated astrology into its religion. Rulers often used the zodiac as a tool of divination and strategy.

- The three wise men or Magi followed the Star of Bethlehem; this divine herald interweaves the birth of Christianity and astrology.

- As Christianity took hold, astrology’s sense of a fated destiny was often at odds with the promise of divine intervention by salvation.

- Renaissance-era astronomer Johannes Kepler published an annual almanac with predictions.

The Greeks studied the angles of planets to one another, and found these “aspects,” as they called them, to be an indicator of life events or internal makeup. They laid out the basic traits of zodiac signs, which have just been refined over time. The language of astrology since then has become more complex and split into various schools. It’s important at first not to worry too much about learning the lingo, unless you’re drawn to it. It’s also got a rich history as a symbolic language, used in hundreds of ways by Shakespeare, for example, to draw parallels between the cosmic order and his characters’

### *Medical Astrology*

- Every zodiac sign corresponds to a part of the body.
- Aries rules the head; Taurus, the neck and throat; Gemini, the lungs, nervous system, arms, hands, and fingers; Cancer the breast, chest, and stomach; Leo, the heart and spine; Virgo, the digestive system.
- Libra rules the kidneys and loins; Scorpio, the sex organs; Sagittarius, the hips and thighs; Capricorn, the knees and skeleton; Aquarius, the ankles, calves, and shins; Pisces, the feet.

dramas. And astrology shows us the cosmic structure of our own story. The language, whether simple or complex, is simply about people and the everyday dramas of our lives.

### *Middle Ages and Renaissance*

- Church leaders consulted the stars during the Middle Ages; this was known as judicial astrology.
- Natural astrology has remained a guide for travelers, farmers, sailors, and pilots.
- Physicians of the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods related the “humors” of the body to the elements: fire—yellow bile; earth—black bile; water—phlegm; air—blood.
- John Dee, astrologer to Queen Elizabeth I, was a true renaissance man, schooled in both science and the occult.



# MOMENTS IN TIME

The study of light energies along the continuum of past, present, and future

Every chart, whether for a person or event, is a moment frozen in time. The planets and their positions can be used to determine the forces in play at that moment. It's like a map that tells you a little about the terrain. Your natal chart is your own blueprint—a record of a fixed moment in time. But the planets and stars keep moving, and the transits they make

to your original planetary positions trigger growth, upheavals, new love, or other life events. An ephemeris or an astrological calendar keeps you up to date on the moving planets. Many people like to keep track of Mercury and its retrogrades, which have become known as communication spoilers.

Each life is embedded in the cosmic cycles: the Moon's

## Kinds of Astrology

- Mundane: The study of geopolitical events, weather, agriculture, the financial markets.
- Horary: Asking a question and casting a chart at that exact moment, making it a tool of divination.
- Electional: Creating and using a chart to find the right time to act, get married, move to another city, and so on.
- Natal: The personalized blueprint of the planets in their signs and houses that is a mirror of the life journey; aka the birth chart.

## *The Horoscope*

- A horoscope is a diagram of the planetary positions as seen from a fixed time and place on Earth.
- Charts can be cast for people and animals, as well as nations, corporations, historic events, and marriages.
- Birth charts show the synchronicities—the “meaningful coincidences” of Carl Jung—between the themes of a horoscope and our lives.
- The horoscope reveals the cosmic atmosphere at any given moment and so illuminates a divine order to the universe.

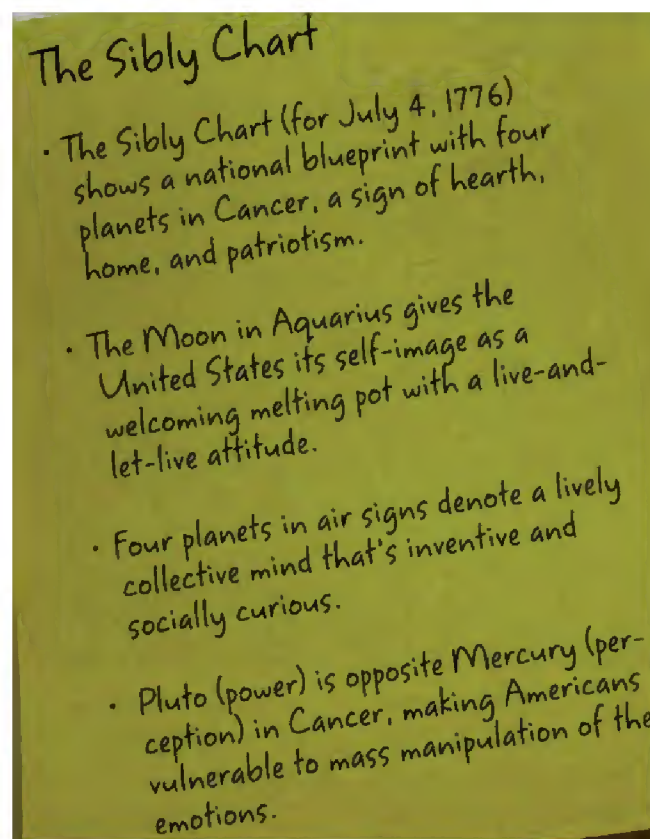
waxing and waning, the Sun's seasons, and the longer patterns of planets. The outer planets are the slowest, and their patterns are understood in generational terms. But these entities—Neptune, Pluto, and Uranus—also make for dramatic crossroads events as they engage with planets in the natal chart. The best known of these is the Uranus opposition, also known as the midlife crisis. Like individuals, events big and small have "birth charts." Here astrology can be used to understand history's turning points: the rise and fall of politicians, movements, financial markets, and so on. Astrologers track

### *America's Founding*

- The most commonly used horoscope for the United States is the Sibly Chart, created by self-described astro-philosopher Ebenezer Sibly in 1790.
- The date is that of the Declaration of Independence, though the signers were not all present at one time,
- This moment is set for when the colony declared itself an independent nation.
- A chart for a nation shows collective issues and character; transits to the national chart will affect the country as a whole.

as this picture suggests.

longer cycles—Pluto's trends toward deep societal change, for instance—as one hand on a clock with many arms. The short hands are the Sun, Moon, and faster-orbiting planets like Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The long hands are the slow movers that herald sea changes in society. These are set against the even longer cycles of the world ages.



# 2012 & WORLD AGES

Is this the end of the world as we know it?

Astrology is the study of patterns in time, the longest of which are world ages. Though there is widespread disagreement about dates, it's accepted among astrologers that we're moving toward the heralded Age of Aquarius. These ages occur because the world wobbles on its axis, causing a shift of the alignment between the Earth and its ecliptic plane.

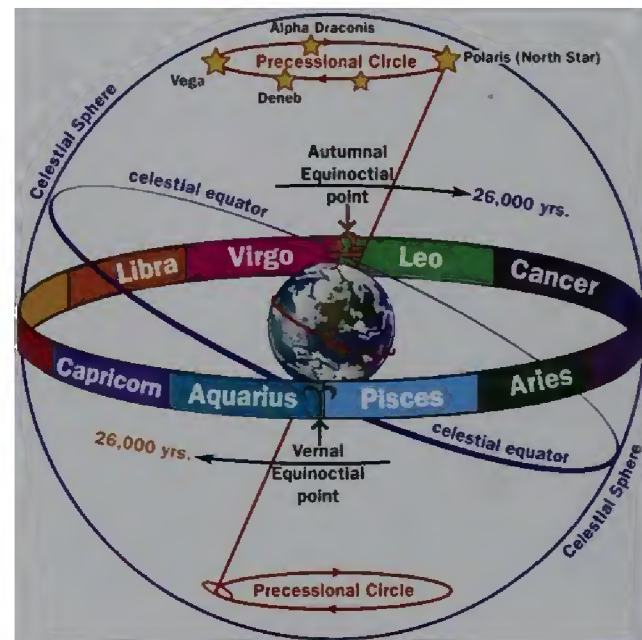
Many myths and ancient knowledge traditions point to our

## *The Mayan Prophecies*

- The Mayan calendar has 26,000 years—a mirror of the 260-day human gestation period.
- This was broken into 5 lesser cycles of 5,125 years each. The last of these ends at sunrise on December 21, 2012.
- Prophecies foretell a period of chaos and purification, or "Judgment Day," followed by Earth's regeneration.
- Seventh-century Mayan prophet Pacal Votan declared that our salvation lies in returning to "natural time," by listening to the pulse of the Earth.

time as a great crossroads of humanity. It's the meeting of the biblical apocalypse with indigenous prophecies of spiritual darkness that precedes a golden age. The Mayan calendar appears to end on December 21, 2012, which coincides with the alignment of the Winter Solstice Sun with the center of the galaxy. Some see this as a sign that we're going to go extinct as a species, while others see it simply as a marker

## *Precession of Equinox*



- This 26,000-year Mayan time cycle exactly mirrors the astronomical one caused by the precession regressing backward through the zodiac.
- Through shamanic journeying, Mayans foresaw Earth going through a death-and-rebirth transition.
- The Mayan elders of today say the transition began in the 1980s, and is a 36-year process to last into the 2020s.
- Dying involves surrendering what we've known, and moving through a vast void into oneness with creation.

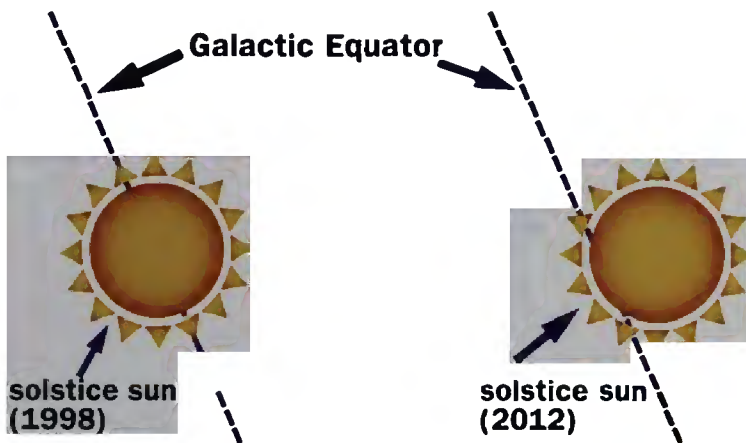
for a turning point. As the Earth's energy body changes, so does our energy. The Q'ero shamans of Peru say we're going to evolve into luminous beings, as we once were before. It's time to open to higher energies coming into the Earth atmosphere and root once again in nature, where everything is alive with energy.

..... RED LIGHT .....

- The end of time may not mean what we think it does. •
- This last age has been called "the great forgetting," when •
- we've aligned ourselves with external clocks and calen- •
- dars that lock us in unnatural time. Our awakening will be •
- to the universal rhythms that timekeepers of native tradi- •
- tions have not strayed from. •
- 

### The 2012 Alignment

### The Galactic Center



Fact: the sun is one-half a degree wide. Therefore, the sun, on the December solstice, will take approximately 36 years to precess through the Galactic equator.

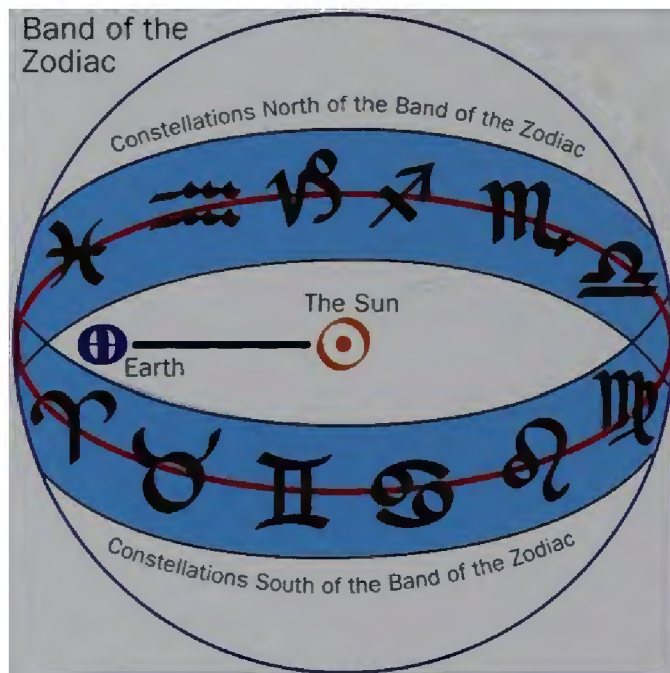
- The 2012 alignment reorients the Sun-Earth relationship to the northern hemisphere of the galaxy.
- Mayan scholar John Major Jenkins says that since the galaxy is a spinning body, the reorientation will significantly change the Earth's field effects.
- When the December solstice sun rises, it will be at the intersection of the galactic equator and the ecliptic.
- This alignment forms a cross, which has a symbolic mirror in the sacred tree found in many religious traditions.
- In many indigenous shamanic cultures, the Dark Rift at the galactic center is considered the creative source of the universe.
- A return of the sacred feminine has been prophesied; this rebirth requires us to face the Dark Mother, destroyer and creator.
- The journey of descent asks us to surrender to transformation and take an active role in birthing the new.
- All the ancient encoded memory and wisdom needed is within, and the heart can be our guide.

# THE ECLIPTIC

The centerline of the orbiting path against the backdrop of the constellations

As it passes through the constellations, the Sun appears to follow along a pathway around the Earth; in the background are the constellations of the zodiac. But it just looks like that from our vantage point. The Earth is actually orbiting the Sun, and is always at a position on the ecliptic. What is the ecliptic? It's the set line that follows the planetary movements in

## *Zodiac on Ecliptic*

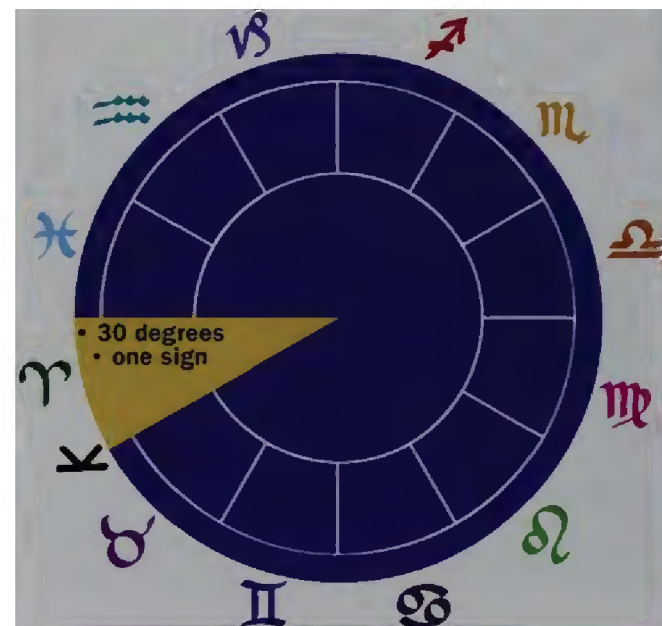


- The constellations extend 8 degrees above and below the ecliptic in a 16-degree zodiac belt.
- To early stargazers it appeared as if the Sun moved against the also-in-motion backdrop of the constellations.
- The constellations vary in size and, in some places on the ecliptic, overlap.
- All the planets orbit near the ecliptic, except for Pluto, which veers up to 17 degrees away.

a circular path. It gives astrologers and other sky-watchers a fixed reference point for study.

The earliest astrologers tracked the Sun against the zodiac and created a starting point where the celestial equator meets the ecliptic. At one point the constellations matched up with that zero point, but now they don't. Because of the

## *Zodiac Sections*



- The Greeks used the position of the constellations to divide the ecliptic into 12 sections.
- Each section is 30 degrees, and corresponds to the signs and houses in the 360-degree wheel.
- These 30-degree pieces follow the zodiac signs starting with Aries.
- The grid it forms on the ecliptic is used to study the planetary positions and cast birth charts.



Earth's tilt and its resulting slow wobble, the intersection of the equator and ecliptic move back slightly in degrees each year. The result is that the actual points of intersection are moving backward through the zodiac.

To make a long story short, the signs that we refer to as points along the ecliptic don't match up with what's seen through a telescope. In tropical astrology, which is what's practiced most in the West, the 0-degree point of the ecliptic is always the Vernal Equinox, when day and night are equal length.

## *Zodiac Glyphs*

- Glyphs are symbols used as a kind of universal shorthand to represent signs of the zodiac.
- These glyphs are found around the astrological wheel, in day planners, and the ephemeris.
- Some glyphs are abstract visual representations; Aries has ram's horns, Taurus the bull, Gemini the twins, Leo the lion's tail, and so on.
- The zodiac glyphs are used along with those for planets and aspects; these are found on computer-generated charts and astrology software.

- Sidereal astrology starts with the position of the fixed stars rather than the Vernal Equinox. The zodiac begins earlier each year—thus, Aries comes in April. In this system, if your tropical Sun sign is Aries, you might find out you've been a Pisces all along! Interest in sidereal astrology, a system with ancient roots, is growing in the West.

## *Solar System*

- The point of reference is a time/place on Earth observed in relation to the ecliptic and planets moving along it.
- This is possible because the moving ecliptic is a stable reference point that's fixed in motion.
- The birth chart is a snapshot of where the planets were along the ecliptic at the moment of your birth.
- Since tropical astrology is no longer aligned with actual star positions, it's said to be more symbolic than an indicator of specific astronomical effects.

# THE ELEMENTS

The basic material that determines the nature of life and dynamics in the birth chart

Each sign can be understood as an expression of one of the four elements—fire, water, air, and earth. These are the elemental forces of the cosmos, and each has a different orientation to life. From indigenous cultures to alchemists, those tuned in to deeper mysteries have worked with elements in ritual or shamanic healing. They are associated with the four directions,

## *Fire*

and the cardinal of each sign marks each new season.

The Greeks were the first to draw connections between elementals and the zodiac signs. Each element has three signs, which is why it's also known as the triplicities. Once you have a visceral sense of the elements, you can really start to understand these subtle (and not-so-subtle) energies of astrology.

## *Water*

The fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius.

- Fire signs seem warmed from the inside. They are high-energy spontaneous, bright, and dynamic.

- A sharp intuitive faculty makes fire signs liable to act on impulse, and to leap forward with great confidence and optimism.

A lack of fire can mean diminished vitality, and can lead to problems with depression

- The water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces.

- Water signs ride the emotional currents. They are sensitive, with intense passion and imagination.

- Those born in water signs meet life via the heart and

psychic sense, and with a kind of emotional intelligence that makes them souls of depth.

- A lack of water makes it hard to relate to others and to the world of feeling.

The elements that make up the birth chart say much about a person's nature. A chart may be all water, or a steamy mix of water and fire. A blend of elements makes a person well rounded.

Lacking an element is also notable, and will be evident in difficulties in that element's ways of being. In a nutshell, air signs lead with the mind; fire signs act on inspiration; water signs move with emotional currents; and earth signs sense their way through the physical.

## *Air*

- The air signs are Libra, Aquarius, and Gemini.
- Air signs are analytical, curious, and social. They thrive on the exchange of ideas.
- There's a detached, "walking on air" aspect to their presence, as if they are looking down from a lofty height.
- A lack of air leads to problems seeing the big picture, as well as issues gaining an objective view of a situation or yourself.

The Fifth Element is the most mysterious—the ephemeral spirit ether. The etheric matrix gives form but also transcends the other elements. The energy body as a whole is enveloped by the Fifth Element, and enhanced when the four are in balance. The Fifth Element's consciousness, and our eternal spirit, moving in and out of elemental form across time.

- The earth signs are Capricorn, Taurus, and Virgo.
- Earth signs apply their effort to what's concrete, and are attracted to all things stable, practical, and enduring.
- They tend to move in a more deliberate way as their senses sound out the physical environment.
- A lack of earth in your birth chart makes it hard to stay grounded or plan out the steps toward actualizing your goals.



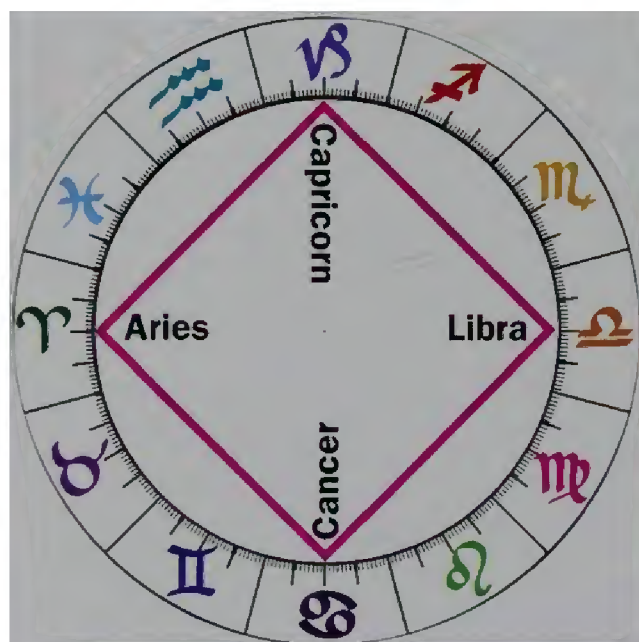
# THE QUALITIES

Signs can be grouped by temperament, with each acting differently in its element

The zodiac is grouped by styles of behavior, also known as modes or qualities. Each quality has a sign from each of the elements; the four are called a quadruplicity. They can be cardinal, fixed, and mutable. Cardinal signs are initiators and leaders, always kicking off the new. Fixed signs embody rooting in with sustained effort that leads to the fullest expression

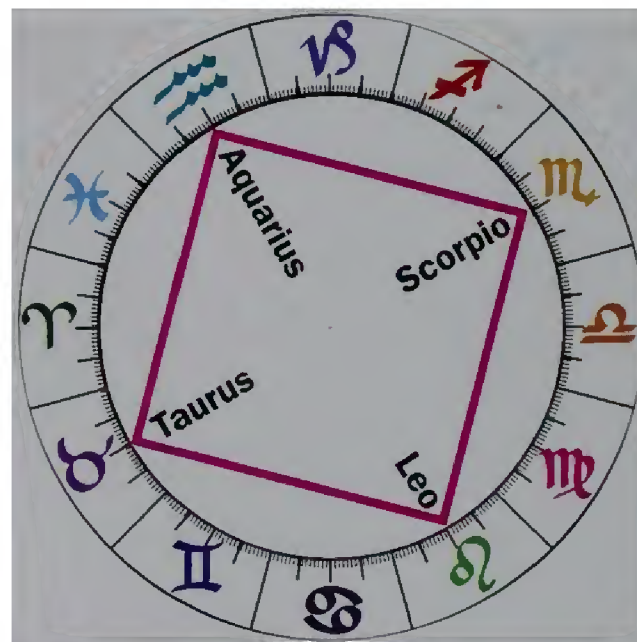
of what's possible. Mutable signs are able to adapt to any situation. In a birth chart the qualities are 90 degrees apart; the resulting square creates tension. The signs of the same quality either have bad chemistry or find that tension exciting. Within your own birth chart, you have both provocative tensions and harmonies. The qualities in your birth chart

## *Cardinal Signs*



- The cardinal signs are Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn.
- The cardinal (angular) houses in the chart are the 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th.
- Cardinal signs seek to impact the environment by directing situations and people.
- They have an instinct for control, which is expressed through the element.

## *Fixed Signs*



- The fixed signs are Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius, and Taurus.
- The fixed (succedent) houses are the 2nd, 5th, 8th, and 11th.
- There's a tighter, more self-contained focus among those in fixed signs, and they have a stabilizing influence.
- They can get too entrenched in their own world, though this is also an anchor for sustained effort.

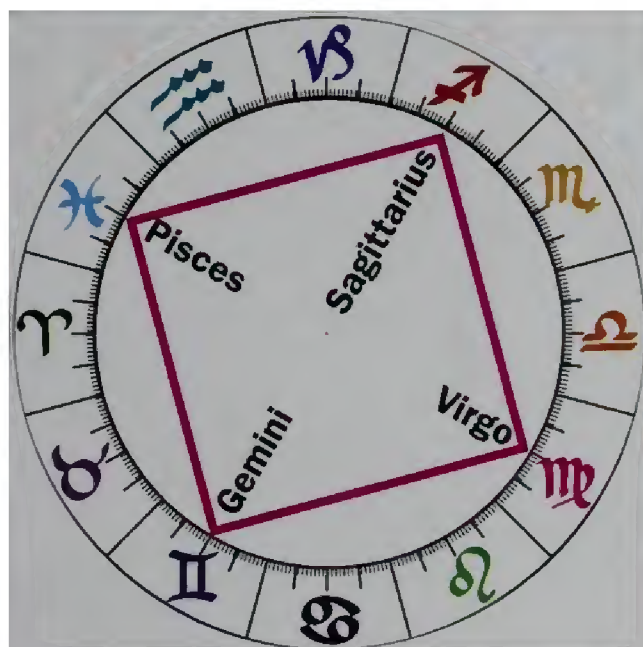
reveal those areas in which you're a self-starter (cardinal); a committed doer (fixed); or a flexible dabbler (mutable). If one quality is dominant, you'll carry that dynamic in a bold way. Apply what you learn about qualities as you watch people behave in a group.

Cardinal signs have the plan and rouse everyone to action. Fixed signs flesh out that plan with a blueprint, and see it carried out. Mutable signs add the flourishes and help put the pieces into place.

Knowing the element and quality of a zodiac sign is a key to understanding its unique essence

- The quality is what makes earthy Taurus so different from earthy Virgo. The fixed Taurus sinks into the work at hand, while mutable Virgo restlessly adjusts its course. Synthesis allows you to identify a planet's position in, say, mutable fire (Sagittarius) or cardinal water (Cancer).

### Mutable Signs



- The mutable signs are Sagittarius, Pisces, Gemini, and Virgo.
- These are the changelings. They shift with what's going on, and the element is the medium of that change.
- The mutable (cadent) houses are the 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th.
- There's a jittery, restless, ever-in-motion quality to the mutable signs. This leads to either dynamism or a lack of any solid sense of self.

### Tibetan Prayer Wheel

- The qualities follow the rhythm of beginning (cardinal), unfolding (fixed), and dissipating (mutable). there's a time to begin, a time to build up, and a time to break down.
- The Tibetan sand mandala ritualizes this cycle, outlining the new focused creation until its dissipation.
- This is a part of the life cycle, starting with birth and youth; moving through the years of establishing lifework and raising children; and ending with a return to the Earth.
- It mirrors the truism that

# PLANETS IN MOTION

The heavenly bodies act as gods and goddesses—channels for the mythic forces of life

Like the Sun, the planets seem to move around the Earth against the backdrop of the constellations. The word planet means “wanderer,” and ancients saw these celestial bodies as free-moving players among the fixed stars of the zodiac. Many cultural myths reaching far back into time have imbued the planets with grand, godlike powers. Each has its own

## *Solar System*

archetypal meaning, as with Pluto, Lord of the Underworld, or the love goddess Venus.

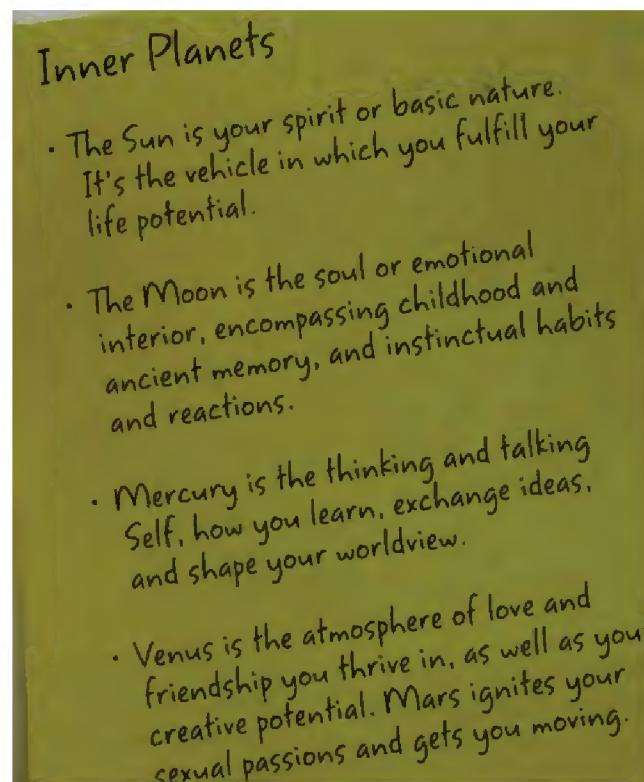
Each of the 10 major planets takes on significance in astrology as a force that acts to shape a life area. They are dynamic actors in their own right, which are then cloaked in the energy of a zodiac sign. In a birth chart, the planet wields its power

The Earth is our planetary home, with its own energy field.

- The Sun and Moon are luminaries, but in astrology they are referred to as planets.

The inner planets are those whose shorter cycles we experience in a lifetime; they are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

- The outer planets, also known as the slow-moving planets, are Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

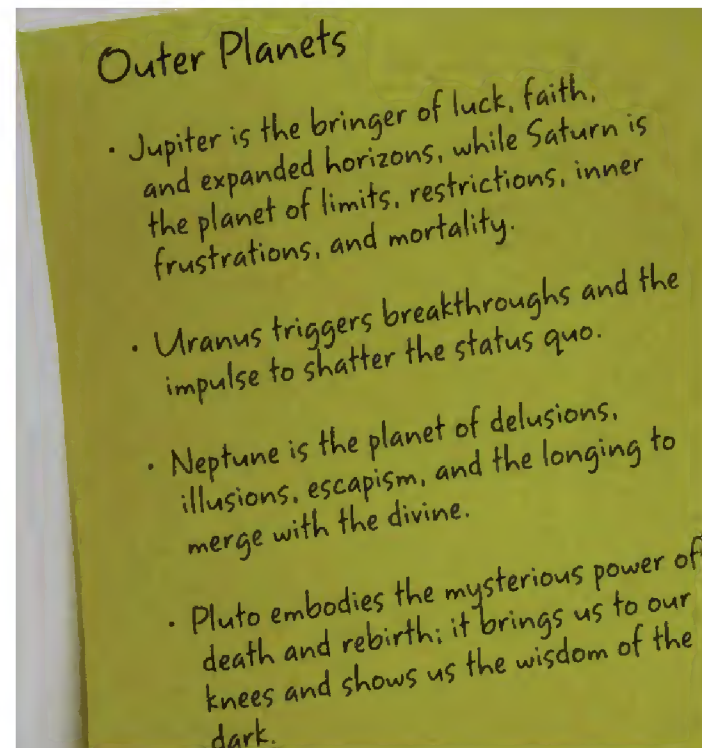


in a particular house, which determines the life area where it's likely to play out. The planets are symbolic of real-life themes and, in a chart, provide the frame on which to hang the zodiac signs. The snapshot of any moment is a freeze-frame of these continually moving planets. Astrology looks at these planets as cosmic allies that impact human nature. Your original planetary makeup is always evolving within a universe on the move.

### *Planets in Orbit*

- Those with the speediest orbits are the so-called personal planets: the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars.
- The personal planets shape our natures the most, and their transits to the natal chart are often short and subtle.
- Jupiter's orbit is twelve years, and Saturn's is 29½ years; they're known as social planets, shaping how we each act within society.
- The transpersonal or generational planets have long orbits that are tracked as historic trends.

- Retrograde motion is the illusion given our fixed perspective from Earth that a planet is moving backward when in fact it has merely changed speeds. Its relative speed makes it look either stopped (stationing) or going backward (retrograde). In retrograde, the planetary energy turns on itself, is more concentrated, and is often geared toward reflection and wrapping things up.



# RULERSHIP

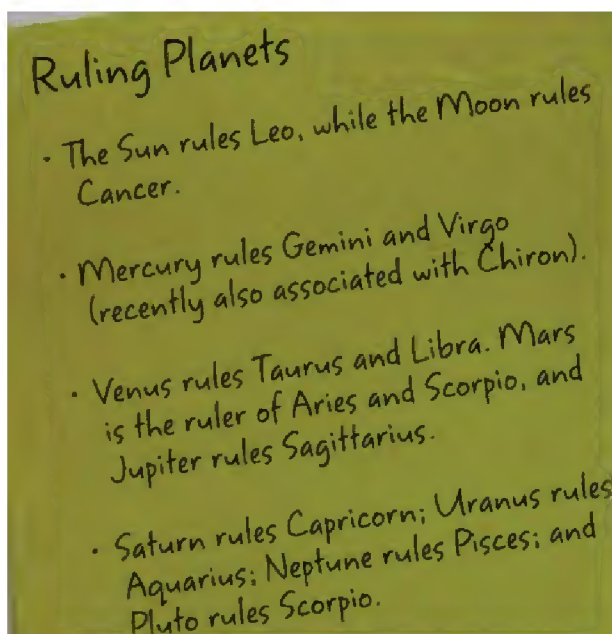
Every zodiac sign is the embodiment of a mythic planetary force

Each planet is a symbolic ruler of one (or two) zodiac signs and reveals what drives that sign. Look to the planetary ruler of a planet's sign and house position (the ruler of the sign on the cusp), when trying to intuit its character in your chart. These associations were grandly thought out during astrology's heyday in Greece and came from observations of human behavior. Once you know astrology, the links grow clearer.

The pairings were originally made with just the visible planets, with Saturn at the outer edge.

When new planets were discovered, astrologers altered rulerships based on what they observed. A new addition has been Chiron, a comet discovered in 1977 that's since been linked to Virgo, though most still list Mercury as the ruler. There's a planetary ruler of both signs and houses, and this

*Mars Rules Aries and Scorpio*



- A planet in its sign of rulership operates as a pure expression of the qualities it represents.
- Your ruling planet is always on the move; its position at any given time shows what's on the cosmic radar.
- The ruling planet shows the strength of any planet's position in the chart: For example, Saturn is at home in Capricorn or in the 10th House, both ruled by Saturn.
- You add dimension to your interpretation of your chart or Sun sign by looking at the mythic attributes of your ruling planet.



kind of intuitive synthesis is a key to “getting” astrology. Planets in their own signs, like the Moon in Cancer, are said to be dignified; it’s a placement of strength. And yet that Cancer Moon may sit in the Second House, the natural house of Taurus, ruled by Venus. This tells us that the Cancer Moon will seek to nurture via the senses, and likely be a great gourmand!

The planetary ruler of your Sun sign is important; its myths and attributes tell you a lot about your own nature. If your Sun is Sagittarius, your planetary ruler is Jupiter. You radiate in an expansive yet faithful way. The planetary ruler of your Sun’s house position serves as the host, directing that Jupiter-ruled quest toward a particular life theme or lesson.

### House Planetary Rulers

### Ruling Influences



- The signs of the natural wheel start with Aries Ascendant, then move counterclockwise to end with Pisces.
- The ruler of any house is the planetary ruler of the sign on the cusp; for example, if Sagittarius is on the 2nd

House cusp, Jupiter rules that house.

- Planets in aspect to each other in opposite signs of rulership are known to be in “mutual reception.”
- A planet’s ruler shows what forces drive it along its evolutionary path.

- A child of Venus (Taurus, Libra) values beauty, indulgence, high art, relationships, and idealized love.
- Ruling influences are interpreted in broad strokes; the Moonchild is dreamy and changeable, while a Mars-ruled person has a martial, competitive spirit.

- A transiting planet’s “personality” changes as it passes through the zodiac; the sign’s ruler gives clues to that behavior.
- Mars the warrior is in Neptune’s realm when traveling through Pisces, acting on both divine inspiration and delusion.

# ARIES

The raw and powerful first spark of life that shouts to the world, “I Am!”

When spring has sprung, there’s a noticeable explosion of *joie de vivre*. Lucky Aries gets to feel that sense of propulsion all year long. If your Sun sign is Aries, you seize the day, eager to dive headlong into first-time experiences. You are the sign of beginnings, the initial spark of fire that is the source of all inspiration. You live to experience the rush of being at the

*Aries*

edge and then go farther, creating your path. Your traits are reflections of primal power of the forces at your command.

On the one hand, you’re charismatic, confident, a natural leader, competitive, and passionate. You’ve got a reputation for selfishness, and a lack of subtlety that can be brutal. You are pure presence, and your natural preoccupation with me,

## Aries Keys

- The element is Fire.
- The quality is Cardinal.
- The ruling planet is Mars.
- The polarity is Libra.

The Sun enters Aries on March 20/21.

The symbol for Aries is the Ram, which conjures this sign’s trait of trying to ram through obstacles, often butting heads with others.

- Aries rules the head and face, with headaches common, and potential for injury.
- Aries is the sign of the eternal adolescent, the outward thrust of spring, raw erotic impulses, and the emerging identity that begins to know itself by doing.

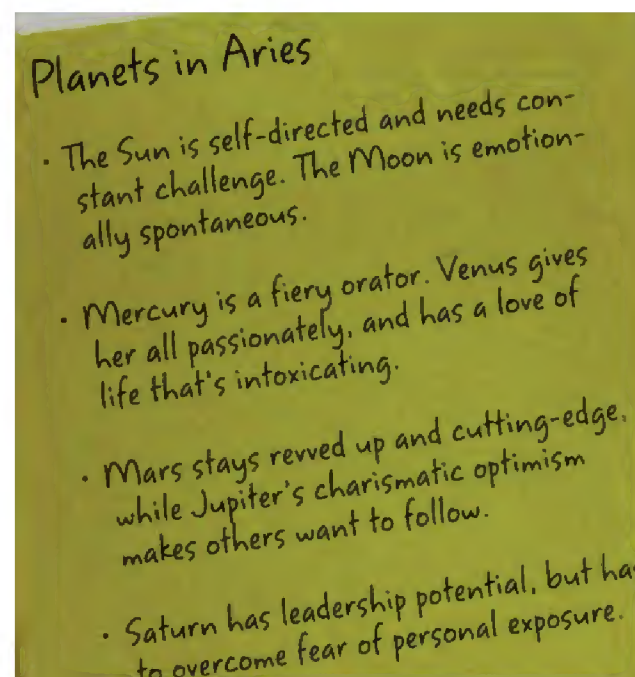
myself, and I is not meant to harm others. You are as innocent as a child who's totally absorbed with each new toy or person she meets. And then there's your evil twin who throws tantrums and rips everyone a new one with her razor-sharp wit. Your attention span is short, and being bored puts you in a devilish mood. But your memory is also short, and this accounts for your unsinkable faith in life as an adventure to be lived.

You're the sign that has a built-in reset button, and you rarely carry emotional baggage for very long. You've got

### *Starting the Journey*

- The myth of Aries is the hero or heroine's journey, and the need to discover the self through acts of courage.
- You provoke others constantly, and prefer relationships with a little fight and friction.
- You love deeply and can be intensely hurt, but no other sign is as good at moving on as you are.
- You're one to surge into new projects, but often that interest is not sustained long enough to bring things to completion.

enormous vitality, but have to watch out for early burnout. This can come in many guises, from being a starter but not a finisher to suffering ennui at a job you hate. Your mission is to follow your passion to lifework that is ever new. You're a catalyst and an initiator, and that's why you're considered the alpha, the Top Dog, of the zodiac.





# TAURUS

The builder of the zodiac who moves within the structures of nature

The season of Taurus is when nature is at its most voluptuous, ripe, fragrant, just bursting with delicious sights and smells. If this is your Sun sign, you're a human animal first and foremost, with an at-one intimacy with the dense physical plane. You are slow and deliberate taking time to feel the Sun on your face or add just the right textures and spices to your favorite meal. You're naturally down-to-earth, and seek to

cultivate a richly abundant life in one settled spot. You are sensual and attracted to beauty, preferring natural and comfortable to artifice.

You've got an uninhibited sensuality, and love to go around in the buff, exchange massages, or draw out the pleasures in the sack. You enjoy crafting things with your hands, as in gardening, building, or pottery. As an artist, you've got the

## *Taurus*

### *Taurus Keys*

- The element is Earth.
- The quality is Fixed.
- The ruler is Venus.
- The polarity is Scorpio.

- The Sun enters Taurus on April 19/20.
- Taurus rules the throat and neck.
- The symbol for Taurus is the Bull, an ancient fertility icon and a reflection of your practical, earthbound nature.
- This sign sees the deepening of springtime to fecundity and fertile soil, just right for cultivating and enjoying the fullness of Mother Nature.

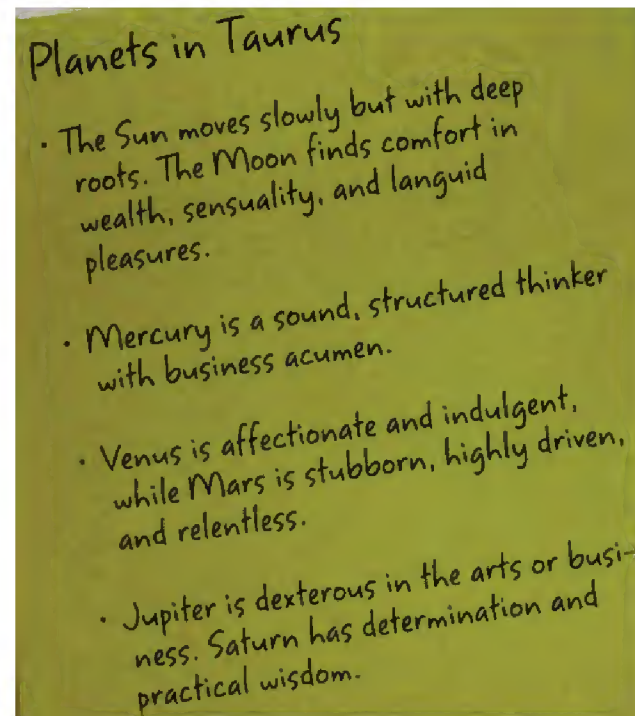
ability to master both form and concept, and this leads to rare mastery. Your enjoyment of simple pleasures makes you languid, at times lazy and self-indulgent.

Your strong, stocky build can balloon out to roundness if you're not careful. In your home, friends always find a stocked fridge and something tasty simmering on the stove. Your good times feature an abundant spread, perhaps with herbs and vegetables from your own garden. After the walkabout of Aries, your sign roots in and builds a stable life. You are willing to work hard to attain a rich lifestyle, but what that looks

### *Contentment*

- Taurus has a refined palate and heightened senses. Many are drawn to culinary arts, whether at home or as a profession.
- As the sign of procuring, collecting, storing, you can tend toward possessiveness with material things and jealousy in relationships.
- A stubborn streak and heaviness of action combine to make the Bull hard to budge.
- Slow to anger, you will rise fiercely if security is threatened. These rages seem to overtake the whole body and are hard to dissipate.

like will reflect your values. Your personal empire might be a cabin in the woods or a big-city condo; the main thing is how abundant it feels. Your practical ingenuity as the builder of the zodiac leads to enduring, structurally sound contributions. You have quiet strength that nobody messes with, and are the Rock for those you love.



# GEMINI

The changeling who absorbs the fascinations of life and mixes them into new forms

After Taurus and the garden of earthly delights, enter Gemini and the scattering of what's been collected to the four directions. If your Sun is in Gemini, you move swiftly, alighting on each new fascination that catches your eye. You're a mentally curious sign who carries on a running commentary about the human theater of the absurd. You want to be in the mix,

and this often makes you a party person. When you're not out and about, you're on the phone, texting, or e-mailing. The less obvious side of your personality is the solitary alone with your thoughts. But you defy labels, as a walking paradox, and enjoy being at home as much as you enjoy socializing. What's confounding to others is that just when they've got

*Gemini*

## Gemini Keys

- The element is air.
- The quality is mutable.
- The ruler is Mercury.
- The polarity is Sagittarius.

The Sun enters Gemini on May 20/21.

The symbol is the Twins, and you embody the state of being of two minds, having multiple personalities, and living with the paradox of duality.

- Gemini rules the shoulders,

arms, fingers, lungs, and nerves; a notable number are smokers and have problems with anxiety.

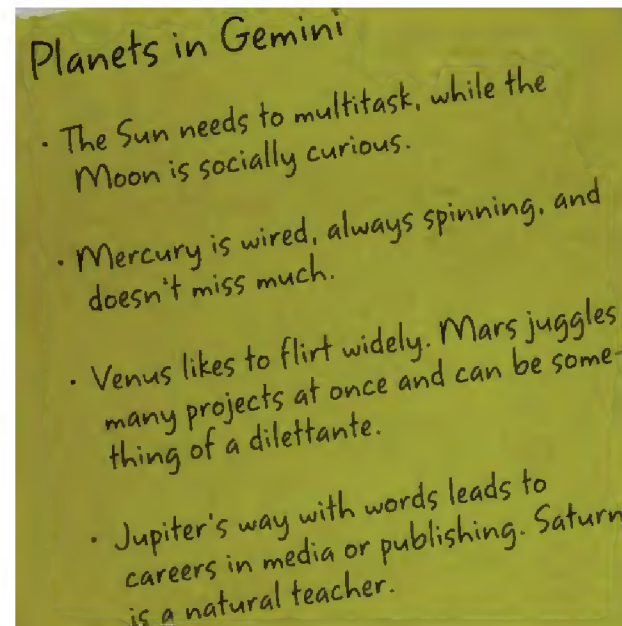
The social summer buzz of Gemini's season is the time to pollinate ideas, take in a sampling of nature's colors, and flit from one outdoor party to the next.

you pegged, you go against type. The duality of your nature means your mind may reach two conclusions, and you stand behind both. Gemini is the magician that takes the bits of life and, with humor and a wily attitude, transforms them into an original mosaic. The process of collecting and sending messages is what it's all about, never mind that what's received is often contradictory. There's a potential for mad genius in every Gemini, a sign that is better off not trying to "Know Thyself" too concretely. It's the sign of the shape shifter, with the shadow side being crazy moods and nervousness to

### *Thriving in Chaos*

- The gift of mental alchemy makes Gemini a social translator and a natural in fields like media, writing, comedy, acting, education, and law.
- Gemini's multidirectional focus makes you a juggler of many projects at the same time.
- This sign collects smatterings, which can lead to superficial knowledge that misses deeper meanings.
- Geminis hate being bored, which means many loose ends and goals dangle uncompleted.

the point of growing strung out. Gemini is often accused of being flighty, with a loose hold on people and ideas. Think of the flight path of a butterfly. Even if movements seem chaotic and never in a straight line, those sudden swerves this way and that carry you on to the next sweet thing.



# CANCER

The compelling strength of emotions with their power to shape and control

The peak of summer is the season of Cancer, the homebody of the zodiac. After Gemini spins wildly, Cancer retreats within a shell and is submerged in an ocean of emotion. This is the sign of the Mother, and both men and women have a strong need to nurture and protect. With their intuition and empathy, they can tune in to what others are feeling.

## *Cancer*

If your Sun is in Cancer, you have what it takes to be a comforting presence—someone who understands what others are going through. Your overall vibe is of profound depth and vulnerability, and this makes others want to rise to your defense, too. Often you show a mask of aloofness, as a defense against feeling too much, too soon. Your sensitivity

### Cancer Keys

The element is water.

The quality is cardinal.

The ruler is the Moon.

• The polarity is Capricorn.

- The Sun enters Cancer on June 21/22.
- As a sensitive sign that acts from behind a tough outer shell, Cancer's symbol is the Crab.
- Cancer rules the chest, breasts, and stomach; often weight is an issue, with a round belly and stress-related stomach upsets.
- It's the sign that seeks the comforts of home, a personal "safe house" to let down the guard and be nourished by comfort foods and family love.

makes you uncomfortable in harsh, crowded places, and this causes you to show your legendary crankiness.

When you're backed into a corner or overwhelmed, your pincers are locked and loaded, ready to pinch anyone who bothers you. You don't just have moods, you become the moods, and it's difficult to reason with you when the clouds have rolled in. What restores your equilibrium is being at home, with comfort foods and a hot bath. Along with your big heart, you're graced with a vivid imagination and the ability to make stealthy steps of progress.

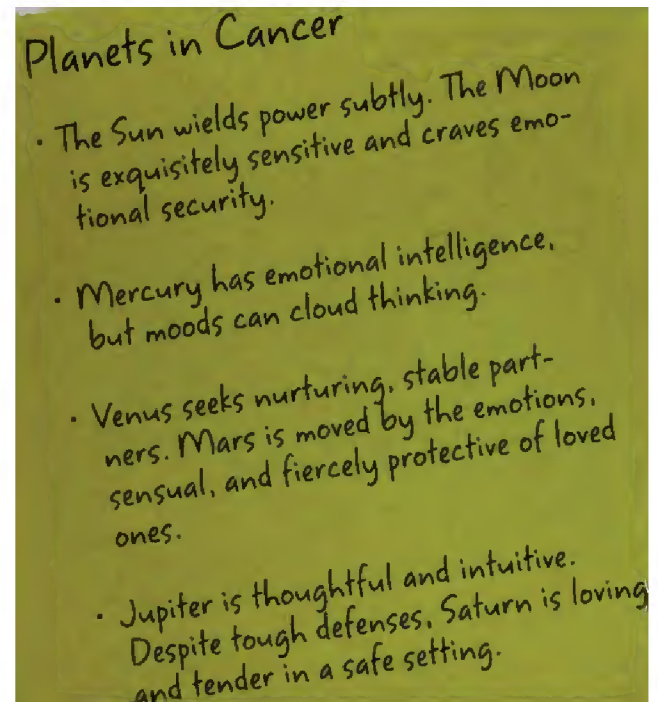
### *Private History*

- A vivid imagination and photographic memory give Cancer plenty of material for art, home crafts, scrapbooking, or journaling.
- Cancer feels a need to explore family roots and know a sense of place.
- A deep interest in the past

takes Cancer into such fields as genealogy, history, and reenactment. History may be a theme in visual arts or music.

- The Cancerian need to "mother" makes you a natural parent, with strong ties to children throughout life.

Your strategy is not to home in directly on the target but rather to close in from the side, preferably when nobody's looking. And often you draw what you need to you. Your nature is cool and reflective, and you're happiest when cozy with family or close friends. It's only when you feel "at home" that your truest, most soulful face is revealed.



# LEO

## The confidence to create a life out of what you love

When the Sun is at its most radiant, it's the season of Leo. Moving along the zodiac's wheel, this is Cancer turned inside out, so that personal creativity is shared in a loud and proud way. That bighearted love comes rushing out to meet the world, and find ways to celebrate. Theatrical and larger than life, Leo is a sign that lights up the room and leaves a searing impression: "Who was that dazzling creature?" or "Who was

that cocky so-and-so?" The Lion loves an applauding audience, because it's a confirmation of magnificence. Healthy Leos have big egos, and this confidence is the foundation for success in any field. This is what leads them to glory in the spotlight, as actors, politicians, and leaders in all areas. Of course, when Ego Goes Wild, you get vanity, insufferable arrogance, and a haughty attitude.

*Leo*

### Leo Keys

- The element is fire.
- The quality is fixed.
- The ruler is the Sun.
- The polarity is Aquarius.

The Sun enters Leo on July 22/33.

- Its symbol is the Lion. This sign is regal, proud, colorfully adorned, and a natural leader.

- Leo rules the heart and spine; those in this sign suffer dramatic heartbreaks that take time to heal.

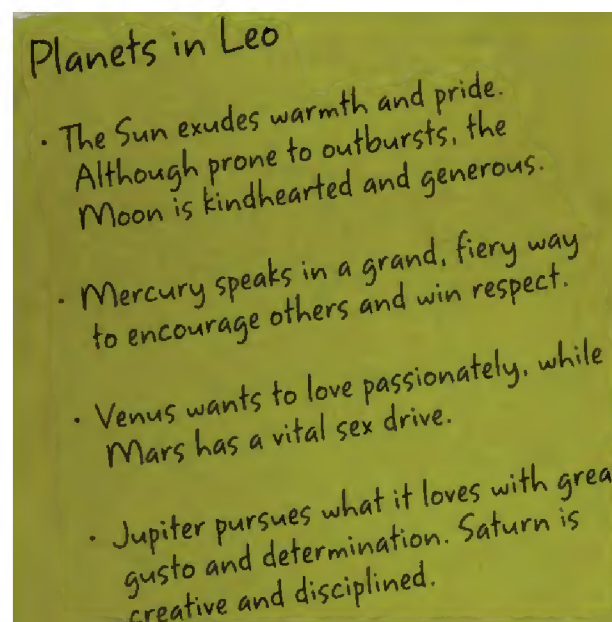
Born with the Sun at its most potent, they have a warm, inspiring nature that can also outshine others and turn harsh, scorching.



If Leo is your Sun sign, you risk having a know-it-all blind spot, with stubborn pride making you lose all perspective. If you're angry or brittle, it's likely from not getting enough attention, or a sign that you need to create! Each of your projects is like a "mini-me" that reflects back on you and can be a source of pride. If you have kids, you thoroughly revel in them and allow the glory of their achievements radiate back to the source—you! Your intense passions are a big part of how you work your magic. You want to live grandly, with epic dreams, and that aspiration combined with your sheer

### *The Performer*

audacity leads to success. Yours is a sign that attains career pinnacles but also excels at play, as the master of ceremonies at parties and holiday gatherings.



- Most Leos love to put on a show, whether on stage, at work, or with a private audience of friends or family.
- It's a sign that needs to rule over a territory; when controlling behavior goes overboard, you get the overbearing, arrogant, bossy Leo.
- Leo's enormous charisma and personal confidence are contagious and inspire others to be their big selves, too.
- Creative and fun loving, Leo shines in friendship, the rituals of romance, life's celebrations, and the company of children.



# VIRGO

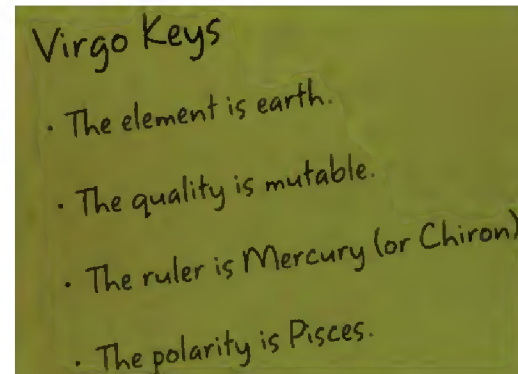
The internal push for perfection, and to be productive and helpful to others

Harvest is the season of Virgo, and its traits reflect the dutiful return to productivity that hits us in fall, as the school year begins again. If this is your Sun sign you're the anti-slacker, always busy looking for ways to apply your practical wisdom. You're a gleaner who knows how to lift the good stuff out of a mess. This makes you an excellent organizer and

*Virgo*

(stereo)typically, a neat freak with everything in its place. The quest to refine things comes from an innate understanding of how things work. You're able to analyze a situation and see what needs tweaking.

As an Earth sign, you see into the intricacies of a process or structure. That's why you're often drawn to the healing arts or



- The Sun enters Virgo on August 22/23.

The symbol is the Virgin, with its original meaning of whole unto oneself and pure of mind, body, and spirit.

- Virgo rules the stomach and intestines; it's susceptible to chronic upsets and nervous tension.
- Virgo's background motif is the harvesttime with wheat and hay bales; it's a sign of sifting, refining, and identifying the fruit of its labors.

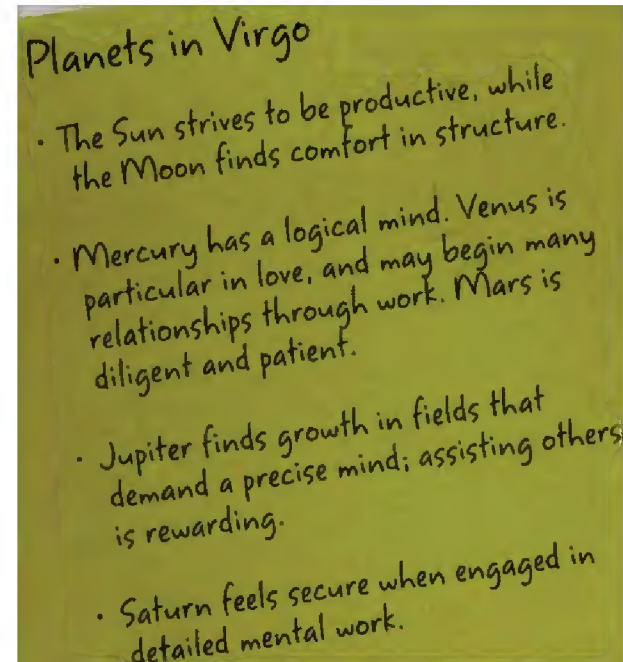
natural sciences. You've got special gifts for knowing how to detox or bring an ecosystem back into wholeness. You've got the potential to be deeply attuned to the moving elements of nature, and are renewed in wild, virgin territories. When it comes to your own health, you are drawn to the holistic and organic. If you're a healer, you combine a technical mind with that almost prescient understanding of the whole system.

Virgo is also a sign of letters, with the ability to be precise and realistic as a writer. Your sign seeks always to refine and perfect itself, and make good use of time and resources. You

### *Pursuit of Wholeness*

- Virgos need to feel self-contained, which means lots of time alone to restore balance, purify, and unwind.
- This sign needs lots of outlets for its busy energy, with its great internal drive to be productive.
- Many are drawn to healing, having a gift for discerning the roots of imbalance and unease within the self and others.
- Virgos are restored in natural settings, and lean toward holistic health and organic products.

can be physically nervous, and that's eased only when a daily groove has been established that's deeply fulfilling. Your gift is being able to fix on the process, not the goal. This makes you willing to forgo instant gratification for a more satisfying end result. And if there's a need to sacrifice for the good of the whole, Virgo has the deep wisdom of humility to do what it takes.



# LIBRA

To find yourself, and see its clear reflection in the eyes of the beloved

When night and day are in perfect balance at the Autumn Equinox, it's the season of Libra. At this point in the zodiac's journey, Self has a "meet and greet" with Other. Libra's focus is on the sharing life, as a sign of all one-on-one encounters. This is traditionally marriage, but includes pairings with a friend, competitor, business partner, or the public at large. At the

*Libra*

turning point, where the chart crests into the public sphere, Libra is where the self learns from that give-and-take. It opens up the challenge of seeing yourself clearly; this comes from the eyes of another or "projection," which is seeing in another the traits that lie beyond your own awareness.

If your Sun sign is Libra, you're at home as a duo and need

## Libra Keys

- The element is air.
- The quality is cardinal.
- The ruler is Venus.
- The polarity is Aries.

The Sun enters Libra on September 22/23.

The symbol is the Scales, and Libra leans toward values of balance, harmony, fairness, and justice.

- Libra rules the kidney system, with its distilling processes that keep the body in balance.

After the harvest, Libra's season is relaxing and partaking of freshness; it's a sign that revels in downtime, elevating leisure to an art form.

to bounce off another to find your natural rhythm. You are social and crave stimulating conversation as a way of refining your own thoughts. You're gifted with an instinct for harmony in everything from love and family affairs to mediating a global conflict. When you turn your talents to design or art, your work often expresses the elegant, the sublime, and a romanticized ideal.

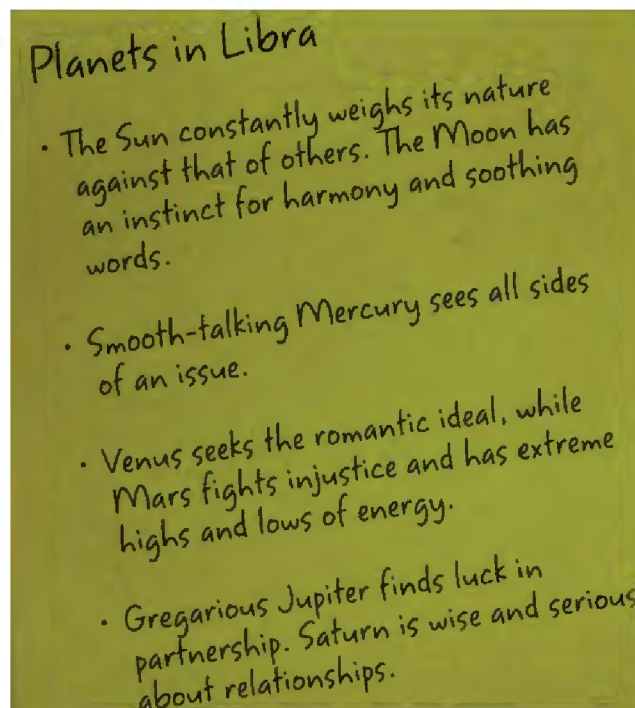
You're drawn to sophisticated culture, and nourished by whatever elevates the spirit above the mundane. The idea is to "keep it clean," whether that's through a creative pursuit

### *High Style*

- Libra's need to weigh all the options can lead to delays in decision making, or to missed opportunities.
- Its passion for justice makes Libra a sign that excels in diplomacy, law, politics, mediation, and social advocacy.
- Libra is lost as a singleton and tends toward co-dependency if a clear sense of self is not well established.
- It's a sign that continually seeks to perfect its relationships, but often fears the deeper conflicts that threaten foundational change.

or while engaged in debate. You've got an aversion to down-and-dirty conflict, but paradoxically, by avoiding little things, they begin to fester.

You may choose to leave a situation rather than deal with an ugly blowout. You've got high ideals, but reality often sullies your picture. You are restored in tranquil, aesthetically pleasing settings. It's there that you can take refuge in your own purity of thought and the balanced place at the center of your being.



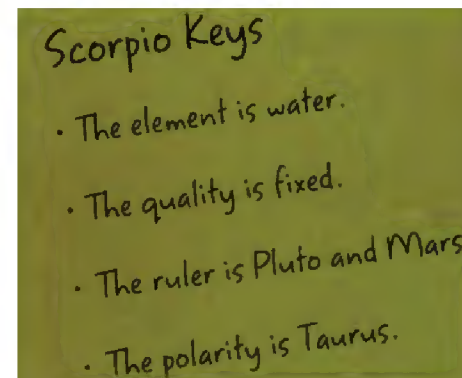
# SCORPIO

Churning intensity finds richness in dark places of the psyche and sexual fire

Scorpio's season is autumn, when the layer of dead leaves protects and enriches what will become the seeds of new life. The heat of compost makes the blooms of spring possible. And Scorpio inhabits that territory of the alchemical fire, which is why it smolders with intensity. It's the sign that dwells in that dark place of both destruction and creativity.

*Scorpio*

Scorpio's association with sex and death aligns it with the most profound kind of transformations we go through. These are the threshold experiences of being born, dying, and being reborn, as in reincarnation. It's also the realm of psychic deaths, those profound turning points when we know we've died to our old life and are entering a new one.



- The Sun enters Scorpio on October 23/24. as the seat of passion and creativity.
- The symbol is the Scorpion, with its deadly poison that paralyzes its victim. Likewise, Scorpio battles demons and issues of psychic control
- Scorpio rules the sex organs
- The season is the dying time and holidays honoring the ancestors. The veil is thinnest at this time, taking us into the mysteries of life and death, where we can celebrate the never-ending cycle.

There is danger in the passage, and this sign can lose its way. During these times, Scorpio is lost in a kind of Bardo between heaven and hell, full of personal demons, shadows, and overwhelming emotions. That's why it's a sign that intimidates and alarms others.

When that enormous personal power is misaligned, Scorpio can leave a trail of destruction, and poison the self. It's the sign of the bottom, the dark night, going to hell and back; after you've resurfaced with rare wisdom, you then take on the role of shaman, helping others make their dark journeys.

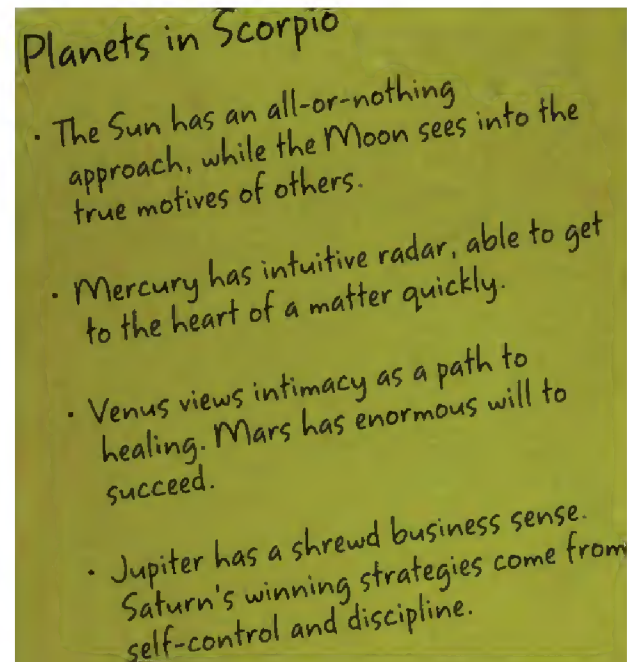
### *Alchemist and Healer*

- Scorpions have sexual magnetism and benefit more than other signs from a deeply intimate, cathartic sex life.
- It's a sign that fears being controlled but can itself manipulate others.
- A preoccupation with the

darkness of life can lead to danger—or to being a master of soul-level healing.

- The ability to see in the dark gives Scorpio a window into human behavior; this is the raw material for the arts, detective work, writing, politics, business, counseling, and law.

If this is your Sun sign, you swim in the deep end and love complex puzzles of the psyche. You're drawn to mysteries of all kinds and fascinated by the extremes of human behavior. You have a need to explore your own light and shadows, and love to turn over psychic debris, secrets, and hidden motives to discover deeper meaning. Once you find a focus for unique vision into the seen and unseen, you're set on a path to success.





# SAGITTARIUS

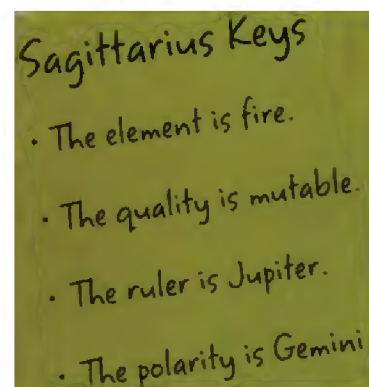
A natural free spirit who seeks to truly know life by living it fully

The season of Sagittarius is when the dark of winter is closing in. Enter this sign, with its physical vitality and quest for the light of truth, to brighten up the scene. If this is your Sun sign, you've got wanderlust and a vigorous appetite for real-world experience. Your mind is constantly sparked with sudden illuminations, and seeks to roam in a vast landscape. You're a weaver, taking the seemingly random bits of knowledge and

organizing the threads of meaning into a colorful display.

A truth seeker, you'll travel far and wide to answer the questions that live in your consciousness. Your sign enjoys friendships or love relationships with those of other cultures. The thrill of learning about food, customs, philosophies, and religious beliefs adds color and dimension to your worldview. You love to learn and may pursue it as your life's path,

## *Sagittarius*



- The Sun enters Sagittarius on November 22/23.
- The symbol is the Centaur, a mythological beast—usually depicted with bow and arrow—also known as the Archer.
- Sagittarius rules the thighs, and often, the build is bottom-heavy, with strong legs built for agility and endurance.
- Yours is a restless sign of journeying, and you are often in motion as an athlete or wanderer.

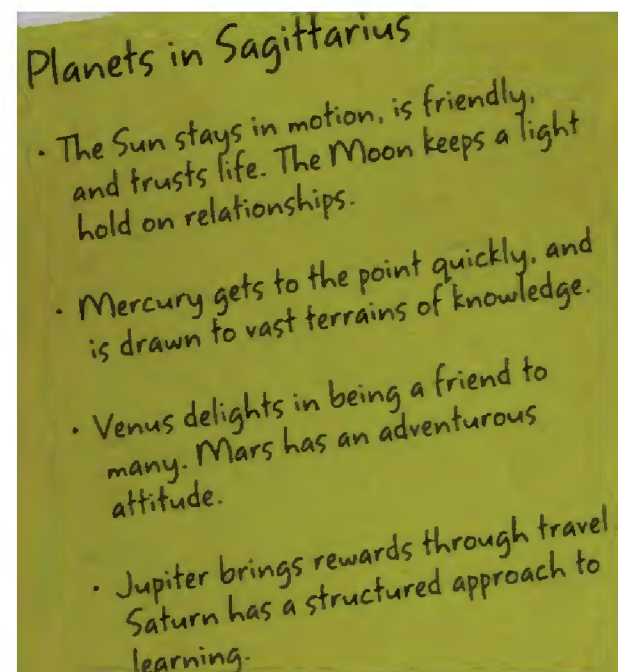
preferring the philosophical reaches of higher education. But you're just as apt to be an independent scholar, following your internal North Star to the next point of interest. You're gifted with an innate sense that life is good, and convinced that if you pay attention to signs you'll be led along the destined path. It makes you optimistic and spontaneous, often to the point of throwing caution to the wind.

You're the one taking leaps of faith, and often they land you exactly where you're meant to be! Your basic nature is one of momentum, whether it's through endurance sports,

### *Traveler*

- As the Archer, you've got a long reach, always aiming as high as you can and as far as you can see.
- You're innocently wed to the truth, no matter how blunt, and can often singe people with your raw words.
- You get along with most people but shy away from any limits to your freedom.
- You've got a special affinity for animals, especially horses and dogs.

pleasure walking, or moving swiftly through ideas. You feel a need to cover great distances on either a spiritual quest or a literal journeying across the continents. A theme for you is the vision quest, and often the image of your future idealized self, at the edge of the horizon, is your inspiration.



# CAPRICORN

A life path that's steep and arduous, but with great views from the top

This sign carries the austere, entrenched quality of deep winter. If this is your Sun sign, you're serious and earthbound, and able to work hard toward realistic dreams. You're an achiever, because your sight lines are fixed on the resources at hand and well-considered paths to success. You take your time when deciding on a career, a mate, or a friend, because

you're choosing with the long term in mind. You prefer what's enduring to the temporal, with a special interest in traditions, history, and the family legacy.

There's a solidity and purposeful attitude that others pick up on, and that garners you respect. At a young age, you show maturity beyond your years, and are said to age in reverse!

## *Capricorn*

### Capricorn Keys

- The element is earth.
- The quality is cardinal.
- The ruler is Saturn.
- The polarity is Cancer

- The Sun enters Capricorn on December 21/22.

The symbol is the mythic Sea-goat, or the mountain goat, who takes gravity-defying steps up steep inclines.

- Capricorn rules the joints, especially the knees, and the health of the bones, teeth, and skin.
- It's a sign of the new Sun emerging at Winter Solstice, but in a harsh season when nature is in retreat and resources are stretched thin.

You don't suffer fools and would rather help others learn self-sufficiency than foster dependence. You can be stern, materialistic, and relentlessly ambitious. A key to your nature is self-control, and directing that deeply rooted confidence toward the right goals.

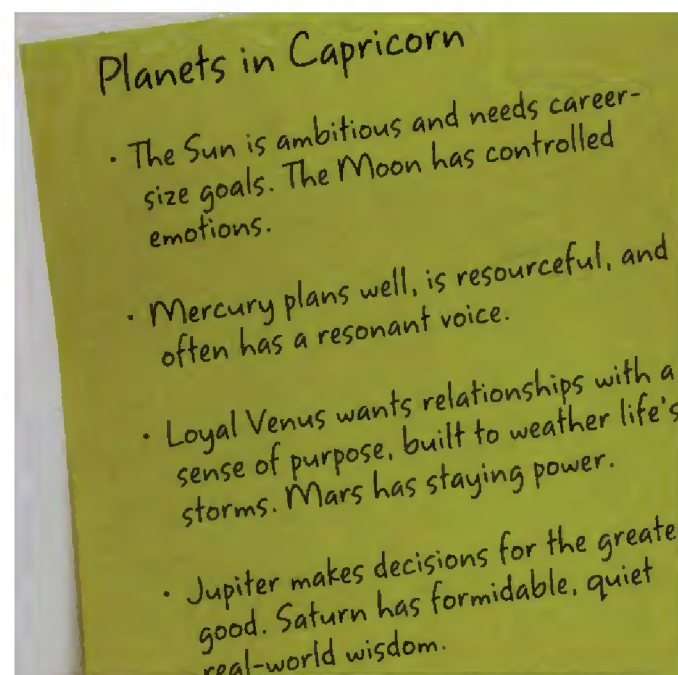
Slow and steady wins the race, is your motto. You're simply obsessed with making the best use of your time and resources. And you're willing to endure extreme difficulties to achieve your goals. But though your burdens are heavy, your spirit and physical endurance are built to scale the

### *Peaks and Valleys*

- Your relentless inner drive allows you to deal with enormous pressures and obstacles, which is why you're the achiever of the zodiac.
- You've got a naturally serious persona that veers toward a dark outlook on life and regular bouts of the blues.
- Traditions of family and town are valuable to you, which gives you a conservative-seeming desire to be a pillar of society.
- A sense of bleakness and soul-isolation gives Capricorns a melancholy humor; often you deliver wicked hilarity with a straight face.

mountains. Your medium is the densest of matter—the earth plane—and you aim for mastery of the real world.

Often that drives you to acquire wealth and fame, and at its worst nurtures the seeds of ruthless greed, where the end justifies the means. You're also drawn to exclusivity, prestige, and status, but this takes many forms, and will reflect your values. At the top of the natural wheel, your quest takes you to the pinnacle and the earned rewards of a life of climbing.



# AQUARIUS

A relentless individualist, a friend to all, and someone who lives outside society's conventions

When crystalline ice has covered the winter landscape with its clear, surprising beauty, it's the season of Aquarius. If this is your Sun sign, your mind is detached and conceptual, and this makes you preoccupied with far-reaching ideas. Your point of view envelops "all of us," drawing you toward groups and in and out of friend circles. By joining your thoughts with

others, you experience the power of the unified whole that forms the basis for collective actions.

Whether it's community-based or globally oriented, this joining up is what you thrive on. You have strong humanitarian impulses and may get involved in local actions, unions, movements, political parties, or even a revolution! Yet even

## *Aquarius*

### Aquarius Keys

The element is air.

• The quality is fixed.

• The ruler is Uranus (and the ancient ruler, Saturn).

• The polarity is Leo.

- The Sun enters Aquarius on January 20/21.
- Aquarius rules the ankles and circulatory system.

- The symbol is the Water Bearer, a female figure pouring from two vessels. It represents the Aquarian fluidity of forms, and the ability to change reality with a sudden new concept.

It's the sign that finally sees from horizon to horizon, giving you a perspective that's lofty and detached.

as you're a natural joiner, you are fiercely individualistic, if not quirky or weird. You are unusually accepting, and come to the defense of both the underdog and those who live out their fringe beliefs.

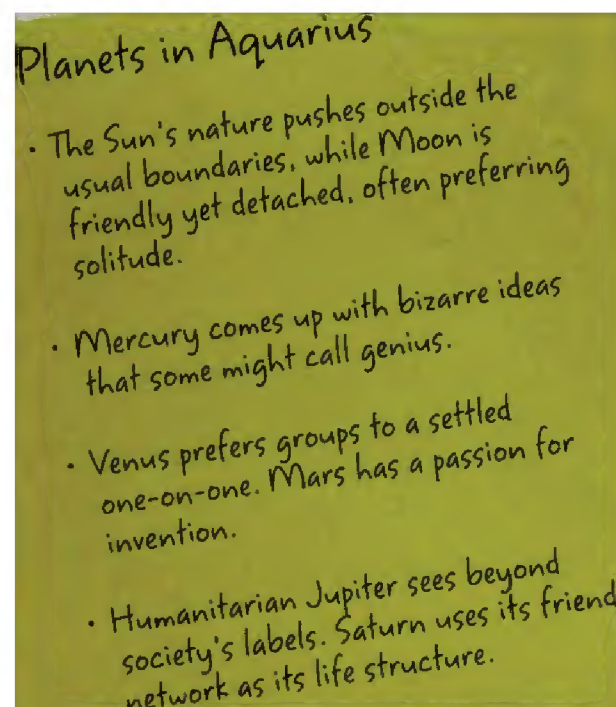
You're known as the friendliest sign, though this is not warm and fuzzy, but more the arm's-length respectful variety. You're a people person, but with your own personal atmosphere that serves as a boundary or space cushion. This makes it hard to ever know you well, and is just one of the many paradoxes to your nature. But you allow others this space, too,

### *Experimentation*

- Aquarius thrives on dropping its thought-creations into the wider world.
- The glyph for Aquarius shows waves, like electrical currents, reflecting the sign's affinity for connecting technologies, like the Internet, satellites, and space exploration.
- Aquarius is often a catalyst—a rebel with many causes that are meant to hurl society forward in evolution.
- It's a sign that loves beyond labels, and tends to marry those from other cultures or races.

which makes for respectful, dignified alliances.

You're a fixed sign that seeks to make order out of life's chaos, even as you bust out of society's fixed beliefs. You let your freak flag fly and often break taboos, but can be stubbornly attached to those unconventional attitudes. You need freedom to break out in any direction, but can try to willfully boss others around. These enigmatic ways make you the most fascinating, puzzling, shocking, and unpredictable sign of the zodiac.





# PISCES

## The amorphous water creature that lives with one foot in the Great Mystery

The season of Pisces is winter's end and the completion of the journey through the zodiac. It carries both world-weariness and the wisdom that comes with living with all the faces of the divine. It's a sign that shape-shifts as it goes with the flow through the full spectrum of the human drama.

If Pisces is your Sun sign, you're embedded in the mystery

### *Pisces*

that everything is one, and this can give you a mystical outlook. You're the most otherworldly sign, and often seem to be straddling two (or more) worlds. This is what makes you appear ghostly or like a lost child, as if unable to fully emerge into the physical realm. It's also what makes you vulnerable to drug addiction, total dependence on another, and other

### *Pisces Keys*

- The element is water.*
- The quality is mutable.*
- The ruler is Neptune.*
- The polarity is Virgo.*

The Sun enters Pisces on February 18/19.

The symbol is Two Fish swimming in opposite directions, a mirror of the contradictory patterns of Pisces.

- Pisces rules the feet. Those born in this sign may have a foot or shoe fetish and love foot massages.
- The karmic wrap-up, this sign is swimming in the collective waters and highly sensitive to what's visible and invisible.

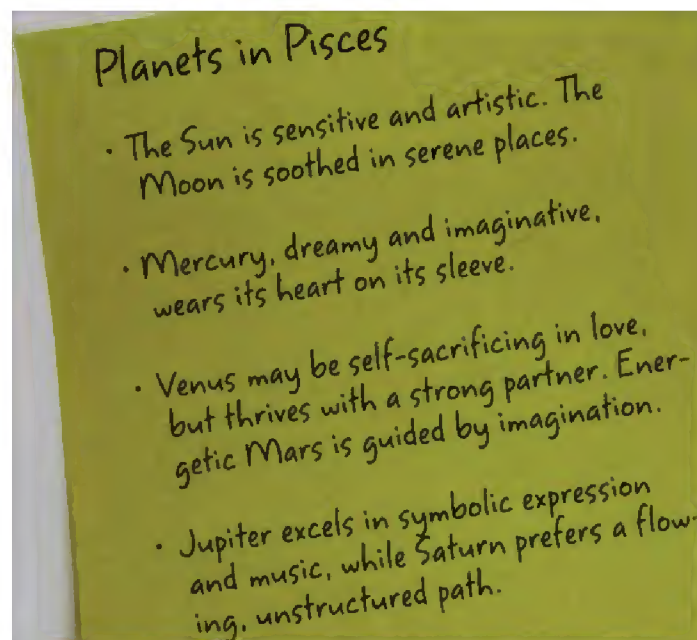
kinds of escapism from reality. You can be easily manipulated in relationships, and can come across as diffuse with no definitive self. It's what leads you to the dark side, where you're willing to sacrifice yourself, and that can lead to dangerous situations. These are signs that you're drowning in that ocean of consciousness of which you're a part.

It's important to learn self-care and healthy boundaries. Your sign is meant to dissolve into the All and find ways to express what's swirling around. You grow stronger when you're able to engage with it on a symbolic level, through

### *Artist and Dreamer*

- Pisces has one foot in this world; the other, in memories, dreams and the longing to merge with spirit.
- A life lesson is to let go of any remnants of ego, but without becoming a lost soul.
- Pisces have a visionary nature that sees the masks of persona; this gives you gifts in theater, film, music, and visual arts.
- Pisces are unusually compassionate and able to see the good in each person; sometimes this unwittingly puts you in harm's way.

art, music, poetry, dance, or theater. Having a creative pursuit gives you a focus and shapes your self-definition. Your awareness of life's emotional and spiritual currents makes you a natural-born mystic. You're less interested in the acclaim of the world than in merging with the divine. Your experience, when shared, is a light to others who may be touched by your universal wisdom.



# MYTH & MEANING

The unknowable luminary that rules the soul's waters and influences the undercurrents of life

The Moon is as familiar as the Sun, and both are equally important in astrology. The Sun is the realm of day and the extroverted self, while the Moon inhabits the interior landscapes of the soul, emotions, and nighttime dreams.

Every culture with an eye to the sky has honored the Moon and has been mesmerized by her changing face. Though

## *Mysterious Moon*

- The Sun has traditionally been over-emphasized in astrology, just as its masculine attributes have been held in higher esteem than those of the feminine Moon.
- There's more reverence today for the Moon's primal emotion, irrationality, and soul.

- The Moon in our birth chart holds the traits of the feminine, with clues about how we experience deep intimacy.
- Women themselves are rediscovering the lunar rhythm as an alignment of the body with the undulations of the cosmos.

there are many Moon Gods, she's often been an embodiment of feminine divinity, with her obvious influence on women's natural cycles. Some cultures looked to the silvery orb as the heavenly home where all souls go. In ancient Greece and Rome, she was Artemis and Diana, both archetypes of female creative power.

## *Moon Goddess*

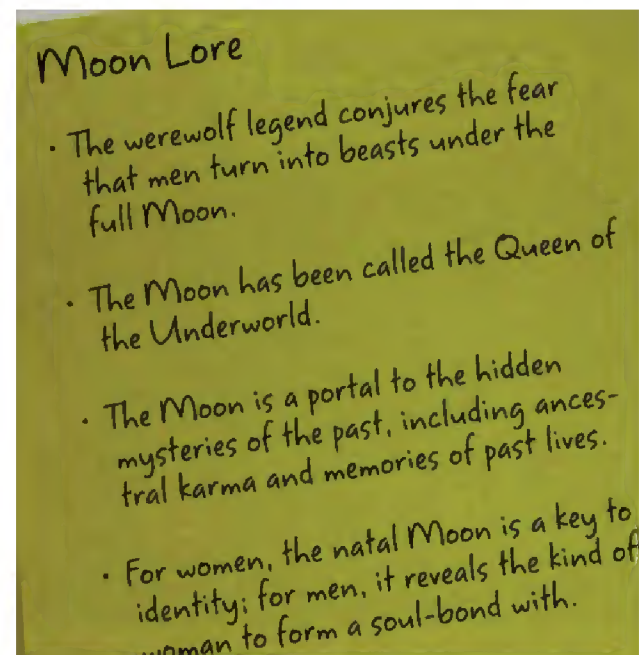
- Women made fertility offerings to the virgin huntress Artemis—later the Roman Diana—to ensure fertility and safety in childbirth.
- The marriage of the Sun (divine masculine) and Moon (divine feminine) within was the path to knowing the divine self.
- The earliest matriarchal cultures had a lunar trinity of Maiden-Mother-Crone as deities of the sacred mysteries.
- As Queen of the Night, the Moon brings illumination when full; at the new Moon, we learn to "see in the dark."

In contrast with the harsh Sun, the cool reflective Moon is a mesmerizing, seductive presence. It's the fastest-moving cosmic body, with a pull so strong it creates bulges in the ocean's waters. In a birth chart, the Moon's nature reveals our own instinct and emotions. Often its traits are veiled from public view, known only to our intimates. It's the embodiment of our personal mysteries, our secret desires, and that which eludes our own conscious awareness. That's when the Moon appears in her terrifying guise—as a reflection of buried fears and instinctual behaviors.

## *Mother*

- The ancients saw the Moon as a source of life, and as synonymous with women's cycles and ability to create new life.
- The myths of the Moon convey her influence on all nature, including the human fertility cycle.
- The Moon in the birth chart tells of how we experienced our own mother.
- The rise of the Mother Goddess in culture reflects a deep need to restore the divine feminine as gatekeeper to the mysteries of womb and tomb.

The Latin name for the Moon is Luna, and that's where we get the word lunatic. Just as it's known to cause tidal surges, the Moon's changes stir up quixotic emotional effects that seem to overwhelm the rational nature. This lends the Moon its darker reputation, as the entity of instability, road rage, and clouded perceptions.



# LUNAR NATURE

The private self-image, shaped by who we are and the rhythms we're bound to

Your Moon sign is key to understanding your interior reality. The Sun is the overall package of Self, and this radiates outward. The Moon's base is the instinctual self, those things you do without even thinking. It's the domain of all early conditioning, repetitive habits, and what you do to self-soothe. The Moon sign shows emotional needs, longings, and what really

## *Moon*

- Your Moon sign shows your way of forming intimate ties of love and friendship.
- A healthy Moon has curiosity about dreams, intuitive flashes, and emotional impressions.

The Moon's challenge is to know closeness without

surrendering to dependency, whether that's with parents, partners, or friends.

- Many emotional problems have roots in lingering childhood patterning; these shadow Moon traits can cloud the Sun's true identity.

goes on behind closed doors! It's the you that experiences the subtle rhythms of intimate relationships, and the sign is the big giveaway showing how that's expressed. Its memory reaches back into childhood, where it impressed behaviors on the soul. It encompasses family memories, mother, and even farther into the shadows of the past. It's known as a

## *The Private Side*

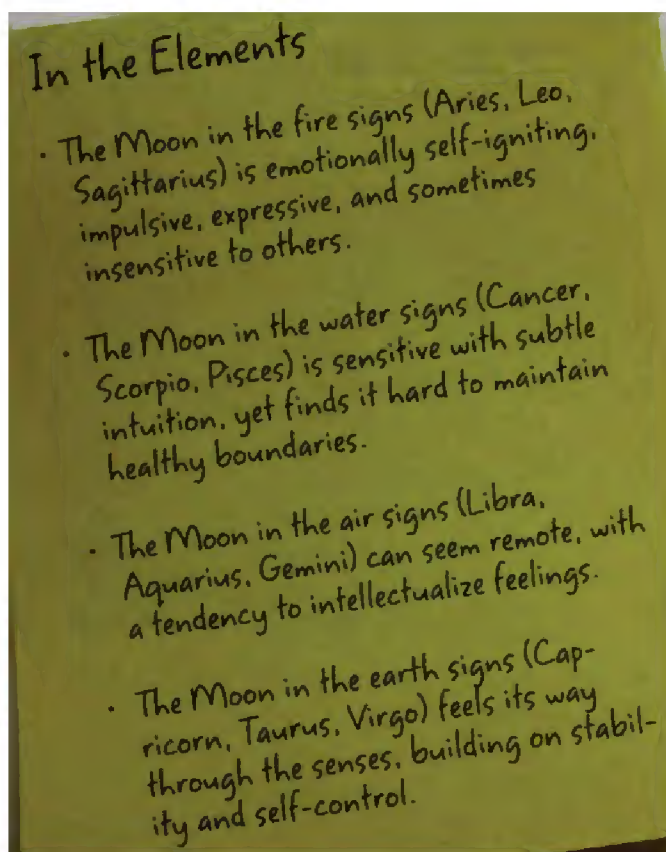
- The Moon shows us our particular style of nurturing and the way we express our emotions.
- The sign and house positions determine how we wind down and instinctually self-soothe when upset.
- The natal Moon, and its aspects to other planets, is a window into our habitual or repetitive patterns.
- Some of the Moon's strange tics or unconscious reactions are a defense against feeling too much, too soon.

window to past lives and soul-secrets carried for the Self, or the ancestral line.

The Moon's emotional atmosphere is markedly different in each of the four elements. Its house position in the birth chart will show the life arena where the Moon's responses make the most impact. The Moon sign explains why two Aries will seem so different. One may have an Aries Moon, making her a "double Aries" with a combustible emotional core to match the Sun. The Aries with the Pisces Moon has an underlying emotional depth that softens that edge with sensitivity. Most

people know their Sun sign; learning about the Moon is a logical second step. The Sun-Moon relationship in your own chart tells you how well your conscious ego needs to mix with those equally pressing emotional needs. Knowing your Moon sign and house opens the door to understanding what you need to stay balanced. The shadow side of the Moon is the soul trying to warn you to tend to its needs.

### *Sun-Moon Harmony*



- The Moon absorbs impressions; the Sun acts on what's been taken in.
- In the birth chart, the Sun is how we experienced Father, and the Moon, Mother; aspects between them show how the two together influenced us.
- When the Sun and Moon are in harmony (with trines, conjunction), emotional needs are in sync with the will of the self.
- When the Sun and Moon are in tension (with squares, opposition), the ego drive must reconcile discord with the soul-level self.



# FERTILITY & SEX

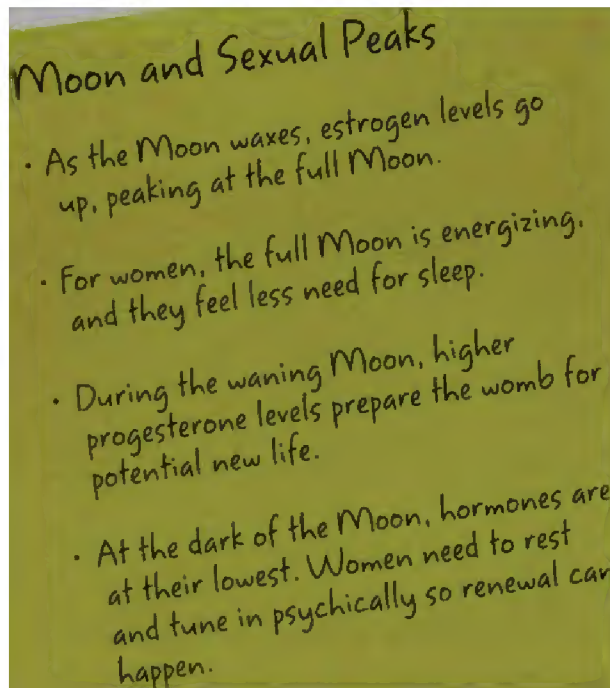
## Finding the creative peaks unique to your own Moon phase

The Moon's sway over our sex life and fertility is almost universally accepted, though still full of mystery. It's part of a rhythm observed in the natural world, with the life force growing, plumping up, being animated at the waxing cycle, and diminishing during the waning cycle. One observable example is the burgeoning of crustaceans with eggs at the full Moon. And in the mating game, we see wild flirtation at the full

Moon over at the dance club! The full Moon atmosphere of extroversion and high energy leads to a vigorous love connection. This peak of sexual ardor and rising female hormones is why more babies are born on Full Moons than any other time: It matches the Moon phase of conception exactly!

Since time began, women have watched the Moon and its mirroring of their own menstrual cycles. This intimacy with

### *Full Moon Mojo*



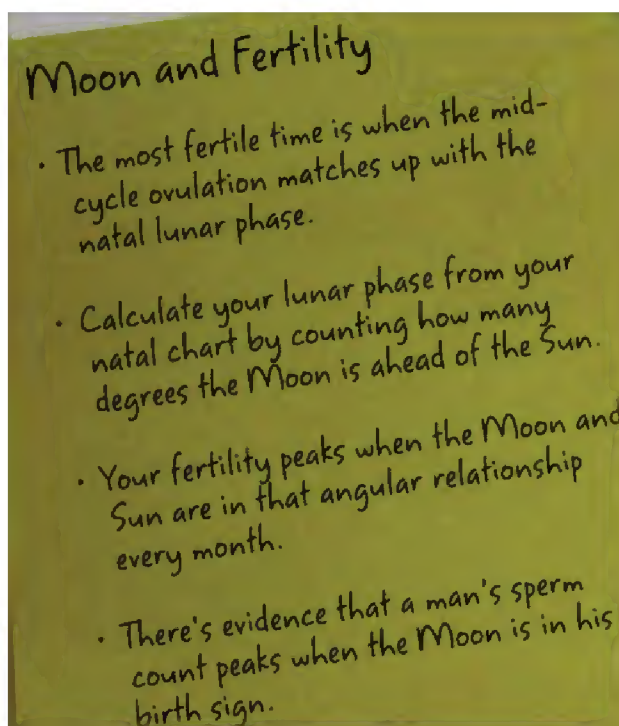
- The mood lighting, charged-up physical energies, and expressive emotionality of the Full Moon are among the reasons why it's a peak for sexual activity.
- Birthrates are lower in the three-day period at the New Moon; this reflects the lowered libido and energy for sex at that time.
- At the woman's natal lunar phase, high stress or sexual intercourse can bring on spontaneous ovulation.
- Women often turn inward during their periods or "Moon time"; some note a sense of loss.

life's very rhythm made women the keepers of the blood mysteries. Many women have reclaimed this connection to Mother Moon, seeking to go with the flow, not against it. There's a growing interest in using lunar calendars to find peak fertile days, which often coincide with the desire for intercourse.

Back in the 1950s Czech physician Eugene Jonas brought some of this lunar wisdom into the realm of scientific discovery. He found out that women's fertility peaks during the Moon phase that matches the one they were born under. For

example, if a woman was born during the dark of the Moon, her peak is the three days around that time, even if it coincides with the menstrual period. That means there are two peak periods for fertility in a month, one being the regular midcycle ovulation.

### *Conception*



- Dr. Jonas found that the sex of a baby was in sync with whether the Moon was in a masculine or feminine sign at the time of conception.
- The masculine signs are Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius, and Aquarius.
- The feminine signs are Taurus, Cancer, Virgo, Scorpio, Capricorn, and Pisces.
- For your best chance at a boy baby, have sex during your fertile times when the Moon is in a masculine sign. Choose a feminine sign for a girl.

# MOON & MOOD

## Our own intensity is an expression of the Moon's force

The Moon's constant pull on our inner waters is a rhythm that has a noticeable effect on human behavior. Like the tides, our own moods take us out into the exuberant social chaos, and then back into the private sanctuary of the self. When we are harmonized with the Moon, we can move along with her formidable undertow.

The lunation starts with the dark, a time of rest and visioning.

### *Ocean*

Then the Moon builds power, and so does our emotional vitality. The Moon's peaks are notorious for drawing out what's lurking in the deeper waters. It's an overwhelming force that's been blamed for surges of lunacy, like the experience of being "moonstruck" and falling in love. The extremes of passion have a darker side where irrationality takes over and strange, violent acts take place. Police around the world

### *Highs and Lows*

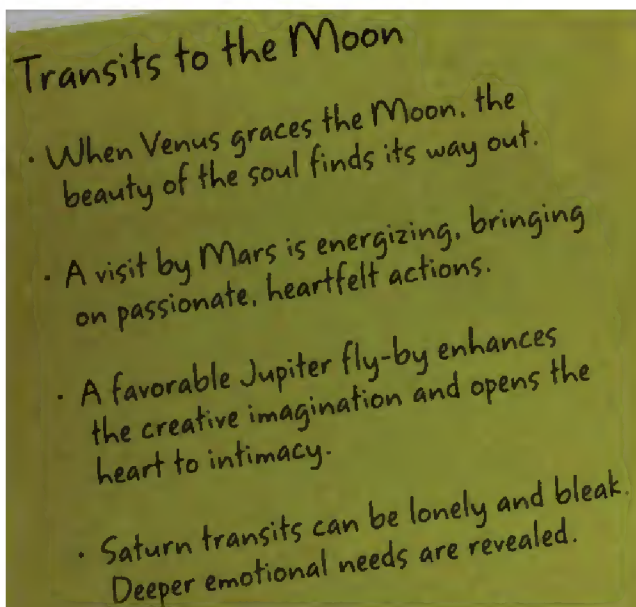
- The Moon's messages are often conveyed through dreams, as symbolic or poetic images of the psyche.
- Lunar visions can be the raw material for artistic ideas, and the sign/house reveals the atmosphere in which creativity thrives.
- The Moon holds your secret longings, and how you act when nobody else is around.
- Harmonious aspects to the Moon allow free flow of the deeper nature, through self-expression and in relationships.
- Emotions surge at the full Moon. The currents of the collective are also heightened, leading to more riots and revolutions.
- The primal force of the Moon can be overwhelming, and many crimes of passion occur at lunar peaks.
- The full Moon tends to emphasize what's been percolating in the culture. Extreme acts represent that repressed collective shadow.
- In a ritual circle, by "drawing down the Moon" when it's full, that intensity can be channeled into visions for manifestation.

have made this connection, and many send out more patrol cars during the nights of the Full Moon.

Along with the cycle of waxing, full, and waning, the Moon moves through a different sign of the zodiac every two-plus days. This dresses up her emotionality in a different color and style, which also alters mood. An airy Gemini Moon will increase nervousness or emotional chatter. In contrast, the earthy Taurus Moon heightens the animal senses and has a more settled vibe. Your own moods are an expression of your particular Moon sign. And as the Moon herself grows,

diminishes, and moves through the signs, it engages with your Moon and other planets. When you know your most intimate self and its relationship to the Moon, you can anticipate nutty, overwhelming times, as well as times to go deep within.

### *Moonless Night*



- The Moon is a bridge to dreams, which can be nightmares when unconscious fears become monsters in the psyche.
- Challenging aspects to the Moon, like a square to Pluto, can make looking within seem dangerous; the intensity feels like a threat.
- The Moon's true wisdom often comes by facing inner demons, which grow stronger when denied.
- After a descent to meet the shadow, those disowned parts of the self find a voice, and no longer just react in unhealthy ways.

# LUNAR GARDENING

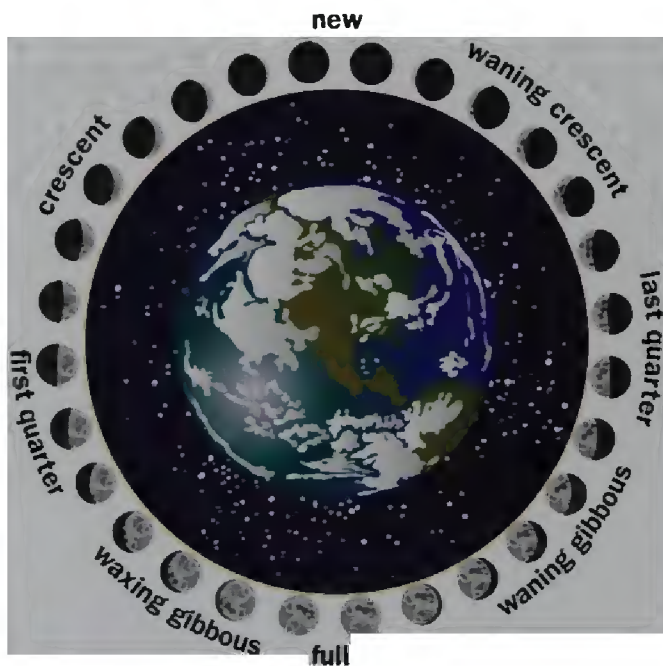
To follow the Moon's cycles of growth, fullness, and decay

Just as we are influenced by the lunar rhythm, so too is the plant kingdom. The folk wisdom of gardening lore is sound practical guidance, and partly why the *Farmer's Almanac* is still sold today. The basic rules involve following the Moon phases, acting when the Moon is in fertile, semi-fertile, or barren signs. Of course, planting has to be done in its season and when the weather is right. After

that, looking to the Moon phase boosts your efforts.

As a general rule, annuals that flower aboveground do best when planted just after the new Moon, during the increasing light. The little annual seedlings grow quickly with shallow roots. When the light is decreasing, it's time to plant biennials, perennials, and bulb or root plants. These varieties grow wide root systems, and the slowed activity of the Waning Moon

## Seed to Weed



- The new Moon is a good time to plant crops with external seeds that produce fruit aboveground, such as spinach, zucchini, cabbage, grains, cauliflower.
- The 2nd-quarter waxing Moon favors seeding root vegetables with internal seeds, beans, and peas.
- Plant root crops or transplant seedlings with wide root systems at the full and waning Moon.

The 4th quarter is a fallow time in the garden, but ideal for composting and removing undergrowth.

## Gardening by the Moon

- Soak seeds in water for a few days before planting; it mimics the soil moisture that peaks at the new and full Moon.
- Plant seeds a few days before the full Moon so they'll grow quickly at the lunar peak.
- Though air signs are dry and barren, flowers and herbs thrive when planted under the air sign Libra.
- Lunar gardeners favor planting under fertile water signs—but root vegetables like earth signs.

favors stability. The rhythm of the garden matches that of the Moon phases in many ways. For example, the Waning Moon is a time for mowing, weeding, pruning, and harvesting. A refining step is looking to the Moon's zodiac sign, together with the phase. An annual planted under the Waxing Scorpio Moon gets a push. And if you're pulling weeds, pick the last quarter Moon under a barren (slow-growth) sign.

### *In the Garden*

- Gather seeds at the full Moon under an air sign (Libra, Aquarius, Gemini) or fire sign (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius).
- Transplant seedlings under a waxing Moon, and in a fertile sign.
- Harvest and put up fruits and vegetables under the Waning Moon, in fire or air signs.
- Weed and deal with pests under a Waning Moon, in a barren sign, preferably fire.

## GREEN●LIGHT

- A Moon garden is designed in whites, yellows, and silvery shades, and full of scented night bloomers like moon flowers, four o'clocks, and angel's trumpets. It's meant to be a serene oasis, with flowers, trees, and herbs that evoke the Moon's luminescence. To complete the atmosphere, add soothing chimes, floating candles in a pond, and a comfortable seat to take it all in.

### *Garden Fertility*

The fertile signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces.

- The semi-fertile signs are Taurus, Libra, and Capricorn.

The semi-barren signs are Aries, Sagittarius, and Aquarius.

- The barren signs are Gemini, Leo, and Virgo.



# YOUR MOON PHASE

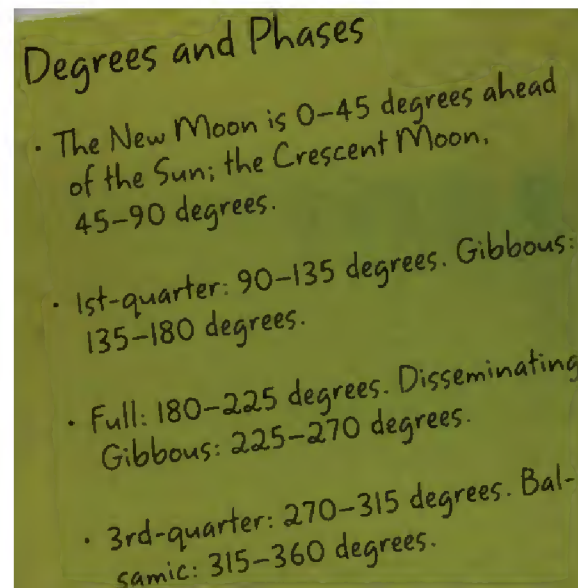
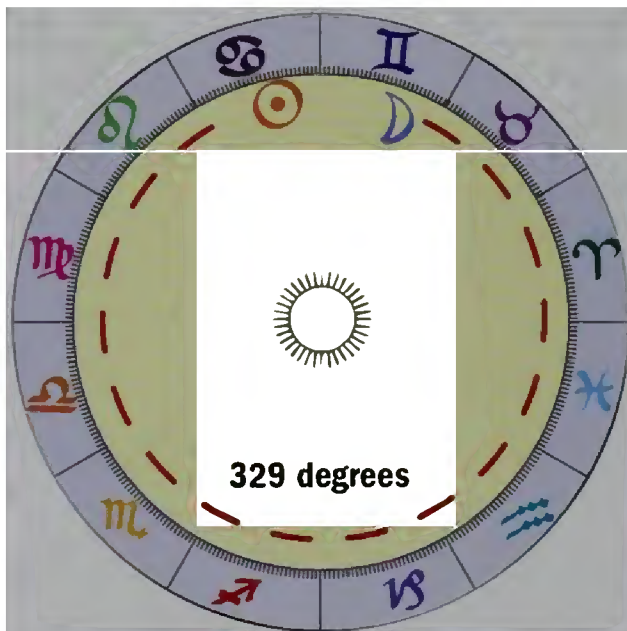
A reflection of your spiritual path, and a deeper purpose for this lifetime

The phases of the lunar cycle are yet another way to understand your nature, adding depth to what you already know about your chart. The Moon phase of your birth shows at what lunar stage you emerged into being. A plant goes from seed to seedling, bearing fruit, casting seeds, natural decay, finally merging back into the Earth. The preoccupations of your natal

Moon phase indicate where you are in the continuum.

If your Moon phase is the last one, the balsamic, you're likely drawn to the mysteries of death and transmutation. The dark of the Moon is your time of personal power, to dream, vision, and listen to spirit. The physician and healer Christine Page likens these phases to the hero's journey; your Moon phase

## *Find Your Moon Phase*



Find the degree of your Sun sign and make a mark there on the wheel above. Do the same with your Moon sign, adding a crescent Moon glyph.

Moving counterclockwise, draw a line around the wheel from the Sun to the Moon.

- Calculate the degrees from Sun to Moon around the wheel to determine your Moon phase.
- In this example, the Moon in Gemini is 329 degrees from the Sun in Cancer counterclockwise; this is the Balsamic Moon Phase.

tells the story of your spiritual odyssey. When you know when you were born in the lunar cycle, it reminds you of your soul mission, and adds to self-awareness.

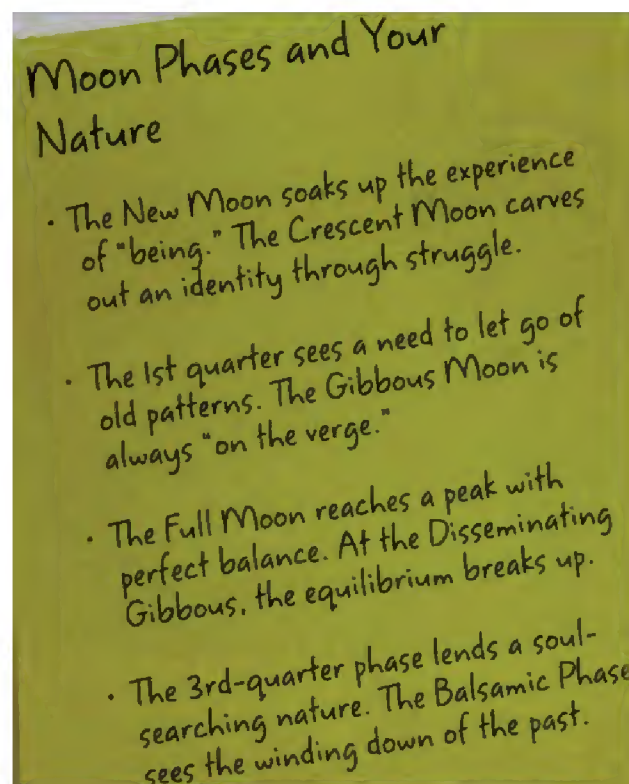
The Moon's rhythm shows us that there's a time to build up, and a time to merge with the dark. All the Moon phases of each lunation are evocative of a way of being, one that's part of your essence.

## *Solitude*

- Your lunation phase shows the rhythm through which your life purpose can be fulfilled.
- Your Moon in its phase and sign, in relation to your Sun, shows how you take in and radiate back the life force or solar light.
- The Moon's natal rhythm reveals how the Sun's vitality can be integrated with the spiritual self.
- Your Moon phase is a time to percolate new ideas, do some soul searching, and take action to synchronize your inner and outer realities.

## MAKE IT EASY

Use the wheel below to find your Moon phase by determining its position relative to the Sun. You'll need to know the degree of your Sun and Moon. Quick Tip: If your Moon and Sun are in the same sign, you're a new Moon baby. If they are in opposite signs, you were born at the full Moon.



# DARK MOON

To enter the portal of possibility and develop trust in the dying part of the cycle

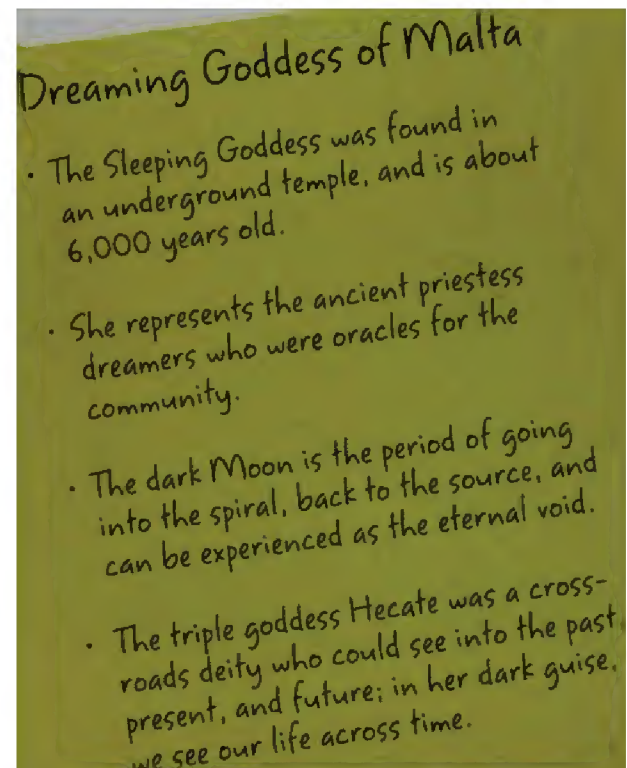
When the Moon winds down to dark, we enter the most mysterious time in the lunar cycle. If you're sensitive to its pull, you might feel yourself growing more tired or reflective. It's time to nap, daydream, sway gently in a hammock, or turn in early. The energies of the natural world are diminishing, and the human animal also goes into retreat mode. It's a time

## *Night Vision*

- The dark Moon phase is the traditional time of thinning veils between psychic worlds.
- The fear of the power of the feminine led to the "burning times" and society's denunciation of women's ways of knowing.
- The dying phase of the lunar cycle is symbolically a chance to be absorbed into the creative source, before the rebirth with the new Moon.
- The doors that open heighten all things supernatural, making it a time of strange events and behavior.

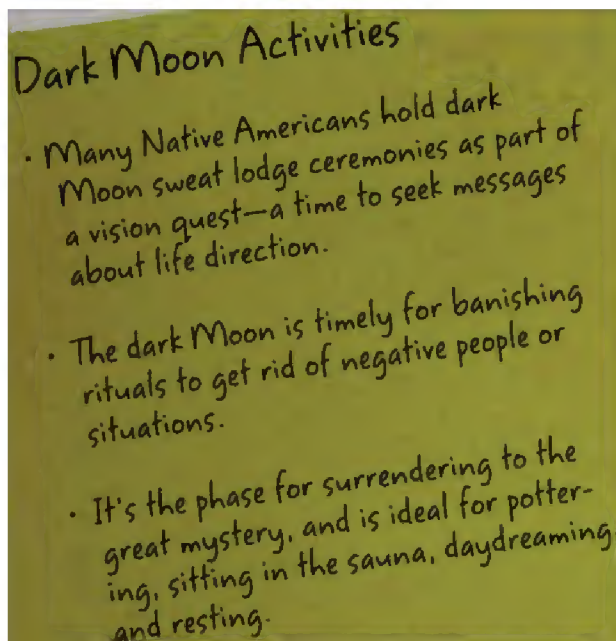
of surrender to what's calling, which is the infinite and timeless dark. It's there in the dark, which is a creative source, that the Sun and Moon are aligned.

That unity of ego and soul, conscious and unconscious, makes it possible to draw exactly what you need from the rich, full place within. There's an overlap between what's



called the dark Moon and the beginning of the lunation, or New Moon. But let's savor the rich landscape of dreams, soul, and communion with the unseen dimensions of life. The dark Moon is that suspended moment between the old and the new that's so full of possibilities. When you honor the dark of the Moon, you make friends with death as a part of life. It brings a chance each month to die to the moment, for the true rebirth that comes after.

In earlier times it was considered dangerous to travel during a dark Moon. Symbolically, too, we can have anxiety about traveling deep within, afraid of being overwhelmed by demons of the psyche. To face and surrender to the dark takes spiritual courage and trust in your own ability to handle what may come up.



### *Going Within*

- It takes faith to open to the psychic chaos of the dark Moon. A women's circle offers support.
- The dark Moon phase is associated with the older wise woman or "crone" who shares her wisdom and visions with the collective.
- Dark Moon goddesses like Lilith, Hecate, and Kali are the most fearsome because they embody creation's destructive side.
- Each month women rendezvous with the dark side, and the truth that emerges can be devastating as well as illuminating.

# NEW MOON

The tentative beginning and a time to declare intentions as the Moon waxes

In the quiet of the dark Moon, we can receive inspiration or messages that become a seed for the new lunation. As the crescent Moon comes into view, you're able to follow along to make a dream real, to draw it out of that mysterious darkness. Conjuring something into being is a vulnerable moment that requires a suspension of disbelief.

## *Crescent Moon*

- The new Moon is depicted as the nubile maiden in goddesses like Persephone, Aphrodite, and the virgin huntress Artemis (Greek) or Diana (Roman).
- The new Moon is a time to initiate—an energetic springboard for goals big and small.
- It's the phase of pure possibility, hope, and daring to start anew.
- Whatever you start at the new Moon is supported by the waxing energies in the two weeks up to the full Moon.

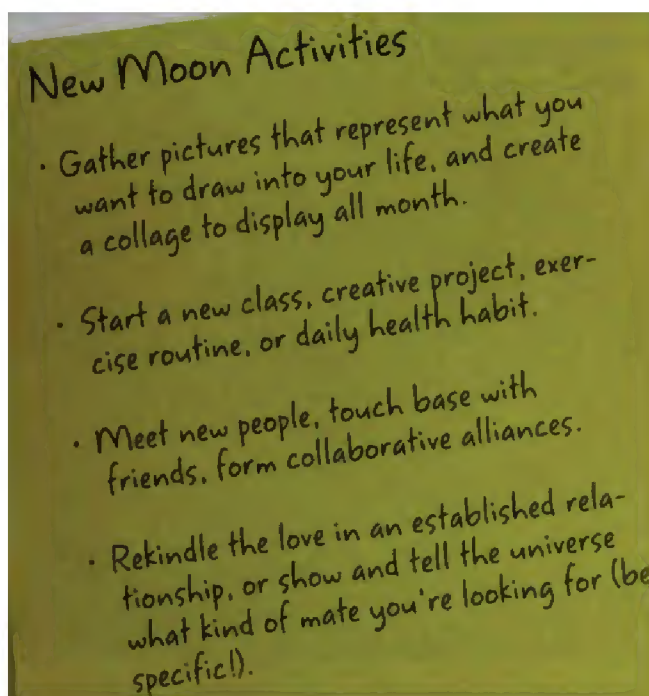
The new Moon, then, is a time to be faithful and generate wishes, prayers, and rituals—all designed to set things in motion. When we bring our focused awareness to these intentions, they gain power. We send signals to the universe of what we intend as the Moon waxes. At the peak of the full Moon, there's momentum to either initiate action or

## *Moon Altar*

- Be creative in any symbolic ritual to add power to your new Moon intentions.
- Be fully engaged in an act that has meaning; one idea is collecting acorns, one for each new Moon wish.
- Place totems on your mantel (or altar) to inspire, encourage, and help you hold to your intentions.
- Choose a candle color that matches your new Moon intention: white (purification), brown (grounding), yellow (joy), pink (love), red (passion), green (creativity), purple (spiritual growth), black (release).

experience the culmination of what you've set in motion.

Each lunation has a unique mood, since the Sun and Moon are aligned in a different zodiac sign each month. When you know the sign, you can tailor your intentions for any lessons that this sign represents in your birth chart. If you'd like to draw in new love—for example, the new Moon in Libra is a good time for spells of attraction. A new Moon journal helps you remember how far you've come.



## MAKE IT EASY

Taking the time to visualize what you'd like to create is an important step. One fun way to stir the imagination is with collage. Create a picture of what you'd like to bring into your life, and post it in a prominent place during the lunation. Or tuck a written list of your intentions into your wallet.

### *Opening Doors*

- Aspects between your natal planets and the new Moon show what's energized in your chart, and can be the sparks for growth.
- Each new Moon is an exact alignment of the Sun and Moon in a zodiac sign, which sets the particular mood.
- The house in your chart where the new Moon is positioned is a life area ripe for change and rebirth.
- Each new Moon is a chance to reaffirm or refine the vision as new challenges arise.



# FULL MOON

The lunar crescendo that heightens feelings and inspires bold steps ahead

The full Moon is the illuminating phase when actions taken at the new Moon start to bear fruit. Symbolically, it's the time of the pregnant Mother, the ripe juicy fruit, or the flower in full bloom. It's a time of high vitality. In a mysterious way the Moon's fullness brings light to the potential that has been hidden in the shadows. This is the phase for balanced action

## *Full Moon*

- In the Moon trinity, the Full Moon represents the Mother in her fullness.

- She is embodied in Demeter-Ceres of ancient Greece and Rome, and Isis of ancient Egypt.

It's the lunar phase of fruition and vitality. What was

set in motion at the new Moon is now either completed or fully established.

- A blue Moon is the second full Moon in a one-month time period; this happens every three years, leading to the phrase Once in a blue Moon

that will further your goals, or bring them to completion.

The Sun and Moon are in opposite signs, and that's an anchor balancing your conscious (Sun) and unconscious (Moon) drives. Each full Moon is in a different zodiac sign and expresses itself through that lunar mood. There's a primal wildness to what's evoked at the full Moon. Witchy types

## *Natural Peaks*

- The full Moon is a symbol of fertility, nurturing, and the pregnant woman who nurtures life in her roundness.

- It's a match to nature's fecundity, associated with ripe fruit ready for plucking.

- The full Moon invites celebrations of abundance, and is the ambient light for seasonal festivals that honor the gifts of Mother Earth.

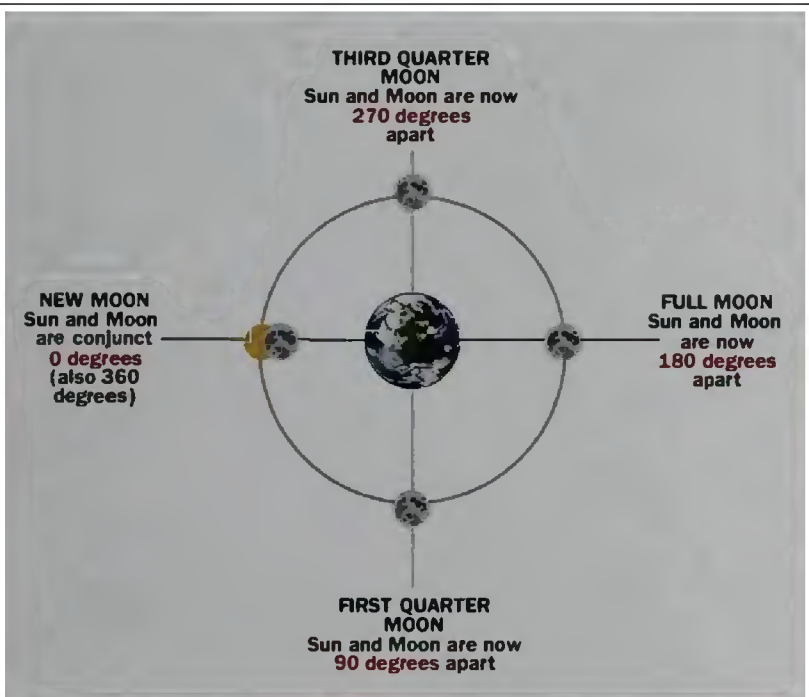
- The full Moon is a boost to the libido, making it an auspicious time for a night of passion with your beloved.

gather 'round the cauldron to work their magic. But the pull on the soul is palpable, and nearly everyone feels the surges.

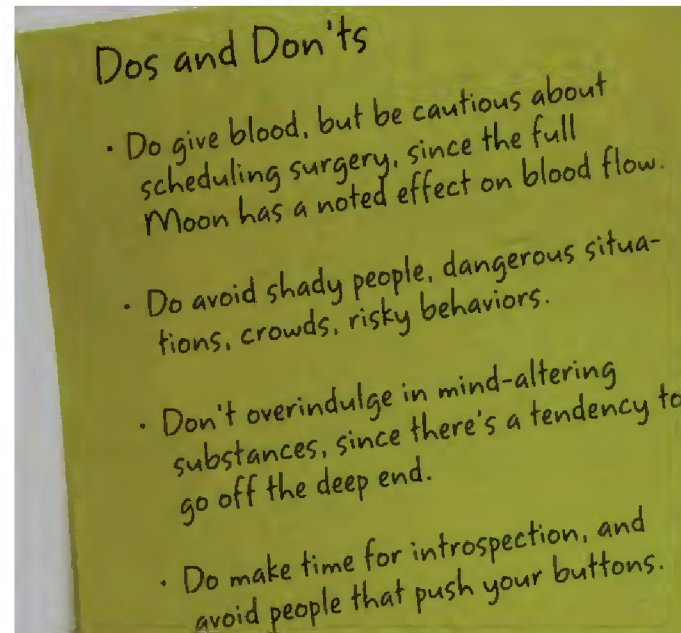
The power of the Moon has been feared for the irrational or intense responses it evokes. It's a time of emotional peaks and exuberance, but also opens the door to night terrors or dangerous instinctual impulses. Channeled with awareness, however, the full Moon's wave offers the cosmic momentum to achieve big dreams.

- The Moon's elliptical orbit takes it farther from the Earth (apogee), and then closer in (perigee) When the Moon is both full and at perigee the gravitational pull is amplified, intensifying its effects. It's known to cause freak natural disturbances like tsunamis and earthquakes. And it stirs up strange behavior in people en masse, like rioting or spikes in violence.

### Sun Opposite Moon



- The gravitational forces are at a peak when the Sun is exactly opposite the Moon, causing emotional surges and quixotic behavior.
- At the full Moon, the Sun/Moon opposition is a tension that harmonizes intuition (Moon) with the conscious self (Sun).
- Aspects between natal planets or houses and the Full Moon can evoke revelations or infuse new life.
- You can plan healthy actions that reinforce the potential illuminated by the full Moon.



# ECLIPSES

Significant turning points, with sudden upheavals that alter the path

In earlier times eclipses were feared as portents of supernatural events, like natural disasters. The total solar eclipse is called the Eye of God, and that speaks of the anticipation of the divine hand taking control. Big events do happen during eclipses, with their effects lingering. Sometimes they are changes to society's structure as a whole, but they also jostle

us at the personal level. Often they feel like fateful events that we look back on as turning points.

Solar eclipses occur every six months when the Moon is exactly positioned between the Sun and Earth. It's a super new Moon, when the sense of beginning is total. That shift comes from a deeply internal place where old emotional

## *Lunar Eclipse*

## *Lunar Eclipse Diagram*

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- The lunar eclipse is the follow-up to the solar eclipse and can inspire decisive action as a way of establishing new equilibrium.

It's a time to make bold changes that tell the universe you get the message loud and clear.

- Solar/lunar eclipses come as a set and are best understood as a one-two punch to the birth chart that often provokes a quantum leap.
- The houses where these celestial events are taking place reveal the life themes being lit up.

- The lunar eclipse comes at the full Moon after a solar eclipse, often illuminating what needs to be released.
- On a symbolic level, we're shown how our earthbound self (the Earth) keeps the Sun's true radiant light from being reflected at a deeper level of the soul (the Moon).

- It exposes the illusions and limits of a particular perspective so that a real rebirth can happen.
- Often it marks a time when the old paradigm is felt as discordant or unsatisfying.

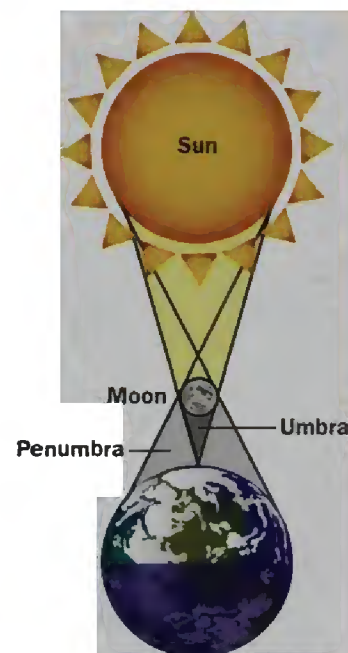
foundations are disrupted. It may mean an emotional shock, good or bad; the turmoil it brings is sorted out over the next six months. Often there's a sense that things will never be the same. The solar eclipse brings endings and seems to block things or people whose "day in the Sun" is over. That's followed two weeks later by a lunar eclipse, which happens only at the full Moon. It's what happens when the Earth is exactly between the Moon and Sun.

## *Solar Eclipse*

- The Solar Eclipse is a tremendous new Moon. It brings experiences that are often irreversible or life changing.
- The aspects and houses that the solar eclipse affects reveal what life area you're likely to experience a personal earthquake in.
- Sometimes there's palpable tension in the weeks leading up to the eclipse, as intuitively everyone knows there are big changes ahead.
- The true hidden reality of a situation can be revealed, like a scandal that exposes psychic darkness.

Eclipses happen when the Sun is aligned with the Moon's nodes on the ecliptic. These are points that highlight a particular polarity of the Zodiac, like Aries Libra or Cancer Capricorn. Every 19 years the eclipses return to that axis, allowing you to clock your progress in the life area it catalyzes.

## *Solar Eclipse Diagram*



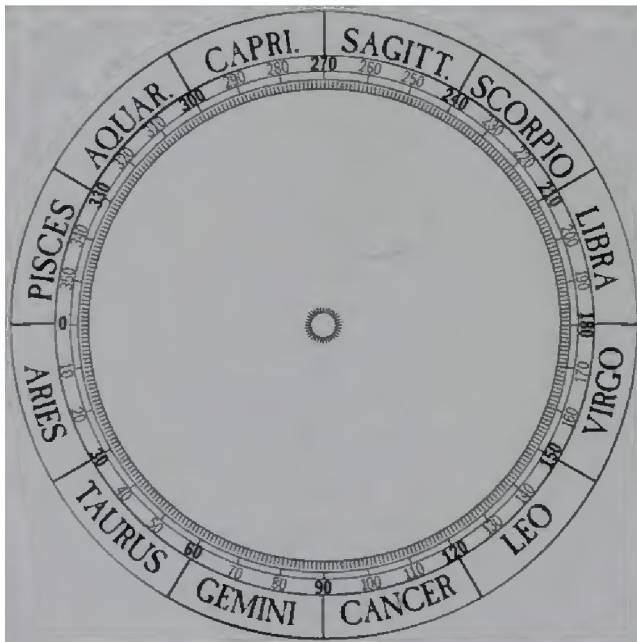
- A total eclipse occurs when the Moon blocks out the Sun completely; symbolically, it's a breakthrough of the soul (Moon) from which a new foundation is created.
- The crises of the solar eclipse are catalysts for profound growth.
- The element at play with the eclipse will determine which landscape changes: fire (expressional), water (emotional), air (mental), or earth (material).
- There are usually two sets of eclipses in one year, whose influence lasts months afterward.

# BASIC WHEEL

A map by which to study a moment in time based on stars and planets

The most commonly used birth chart features a wheel with 12 divisions, or spokes. These are the dividing markers for the houses, and are in 30-degree segments. The whole wheel adds up to 360 degrees. Most people know the zodiac signs, which begin with Aries. A sample wheel shows Aries as the starting point, at the middle left (the Ascendant or horizon

## *Basic Wheel*



- Each 30-degree segment covers one zodiac sign around the wheel.
- The 30-degree segments are further broken down into decans of their respective sign, adding nuance to the meaning.
- Your Ascendant begins the wheel at the left, as the degree that was rising on the eastern horizon at the moment of your birth.
- The planets are placed on the zodiacal ecliptic at their position (degree) on the day you were born.

line), then continues through Pisces. Your personal wheel will begin with your Ascendant. That's what makes each birth chart unique.

When looking at your wheel, you'll see the glyphs for the planets in one of the houses. You can then answer common questions like, "Where's my Venus?" To find the sign for any

## *Zodiac on Wheel*



- The natural wheel begins with Aries Ascendant; yours starts with your own rising sign and moves counterclockwise.
- The zodiac sign on the cusp begins the house, but note that one house can span two zodiac signs.
- The signs are divided into polarities of male (yang) and female (yin). These alternate on the wheel beginning with Aries (male).
- Every person embodies some expression of the entire zodiac, though a sign or group of signs will be emphasized in a lifetime.



planet, look to the sign on the cusp of that house. Often there's a glyph of the zodiac sign next to the glyph for the planet. If there's a glyph for Capricorn next to your Mercury, for example, you've got Mercury in Capricorn. Simple, isn't it? The challenge is understanding what it means and blending it with your Sun, Moon, and other planets. And that's the art of synthesis at the heart of astrology.

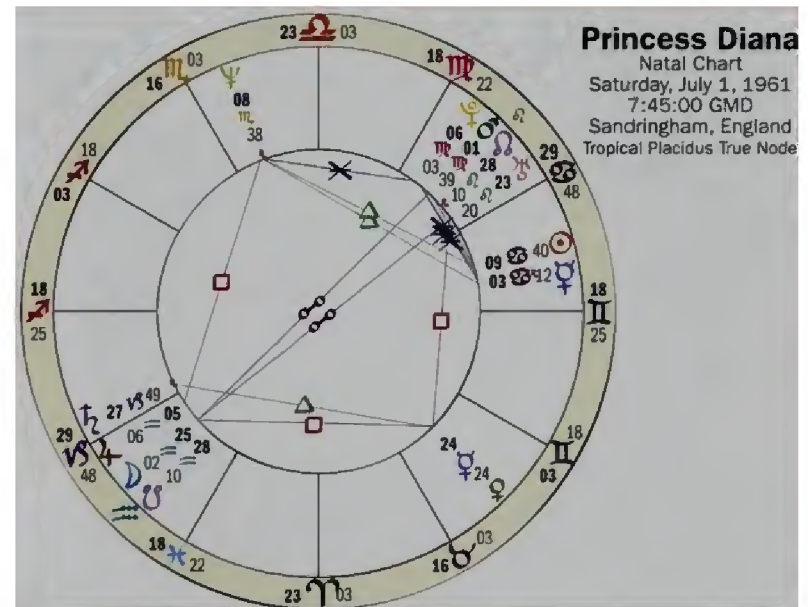
## Glyphs for Planets

- Glyphs are symbols used universally as shorthand to represent each of the planets.
- Knowing these glyphs allows you to decode any astrological day planner or chart.
- The Sun glyph is a circle with a dot in the center; Venus and Mars are recognizable symbols for female and male.
- A planet glyph is used with glyphs for the Zodiac and aspects, to plot positions on the birth chart.

## MAKE IT EASY

These days you don't need math savvy to draw up a birth chart. Just enter your birth data into a chart generator—and voilà, there it is! With the chart in front of you, start by locating your familiar Sun sign. It's exciting to learn that there's more to astrology than the Sun, and it's all right there in your chart.

Chart: Princess Diana



- In the birth chart of Princess Diana, the Ascendant is set at 18 degrees Sagittarius; this rising sign gave her a radiant, socially curious persona.
- Her Sun and Mercury are nearly conjunct in Cancer, which gave her a Mother Goddess appeal; she had a nurturing nature and spoke from the heart.
- Her Moon in wild card Aquarius gave her an instinctual compassion for those on the fringes of society.
- Her birth chart is a well-rounded mix of all the elements and qualities.

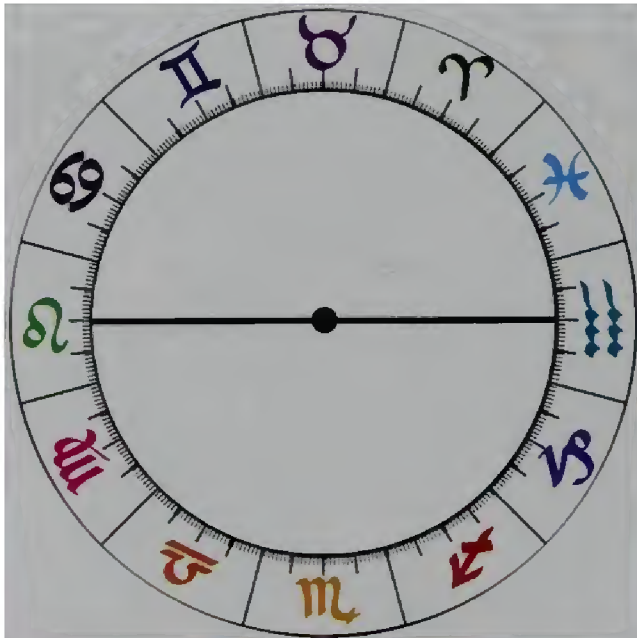


# RISING SIGN

This is your front door, and what sets the chart, as an accurate cosmic blueprint

Along with the Sun and Moon, your rising sign is a key to understanding your overall nature. Together these are known as the Big Three. Your rising sign is the zodiac sign that was rising on the eastern horizon at the moment of your birth. The degree of this sign is your Ascendant (ASC), and is found at the middle left in the chart. It's what gives the chart

## *Horizon Line*



- The rising sign changes every two hours or so, which is why only an exact birth time will give you an accurate birth chart.
- The ruling planet of your rising sign is the chart ruler. Its influence is subtle but pervasive.
- Any planet near or on the Ascendant will have a big impact on your personality, health, and appearance.
- Just as planets rising at the horizon appear larger, the rising sign is the overwhelming impression you give others.

a to-the-minute precision, and relies on you knowing your birth time.

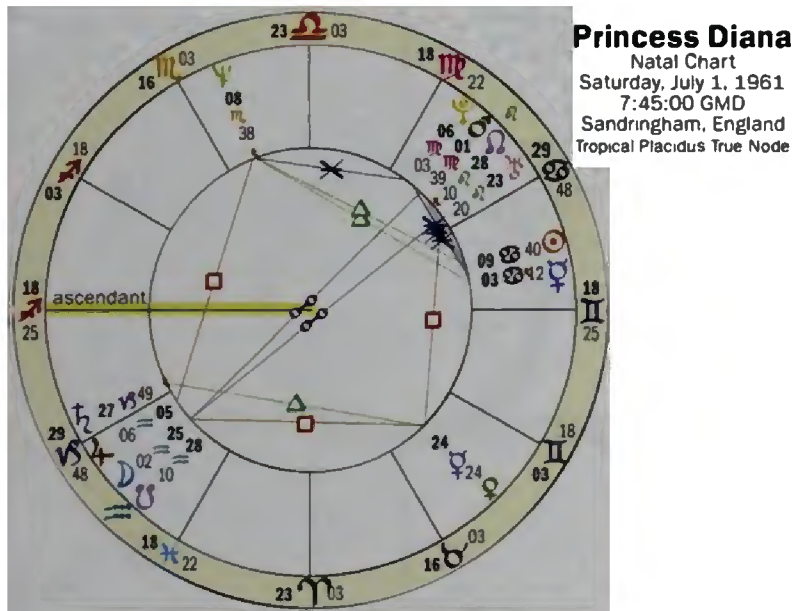
We can thank the Greeks, who were the first to use rising signs to cast more personalized charts. And it's one thing that makes every Sun sign different from others of the same sign. Even identical twins can have different rising signs. It's the

## *First Impressions*

- The Sun's mission is achieved via the traits of the rising sign; it's how you go about getting what you want!
- If someone describes you in terms that seem off, they're likely describing the traits of the rising sign.
- The rising sign influences vitality—whether you come on like gangbusters or are coolly reserved.
- Planets at or near the Ascendant can have a restricting effect, like Saturn, or can be energizing, as with Mars or Jupiter.

essence of that moment when you impressed yourself onto the world, and it's the first impression you make on others. That imprint sticks with you. Your rising sign and its planetary ruler cloak your personality in its mannerisms, social mask, physical characteristics, and style. It's like the loose outer garment that's worn on the Sun sign's frame—the facade you present to the world. You could say it's your Sun's public relations face, and this determines what and who you let in.

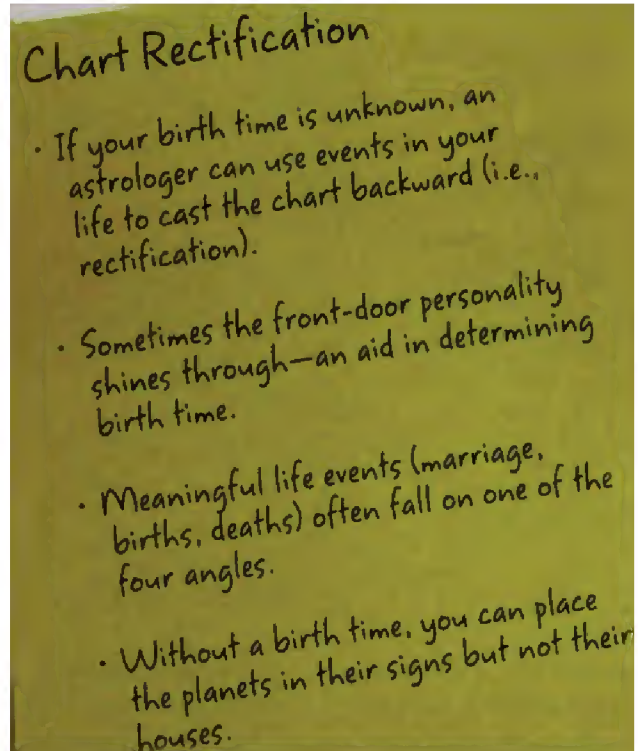
### Lady Di's Ascendant



- Princess Diana's Ascendant is Sagittarius, making Jupiter, the planet of higher moral guidance, her chart's ruler.
- This rising sign is known to confer fame. It offers widespread appeal and the ability to meet everyone as a friend.
- Di's truth-telling Sagittarius persona made her more revealing than many Cancers; as she expressed her emotional vulnerabilities, love for her grew.
- Her rising and Moon sign, in Aquarius, tend to look beyond status and labels, making her the People's Princess.

## MAKE IT EASY

Want to discover your birth time? Birth certificates sometimes list the exact time, and transcripts are available through the hospital or municipality where you were born. Baby books are another good source. Your best bet is the memory of a parent or other relative, as that moment was likely remembered with a lot of detail.

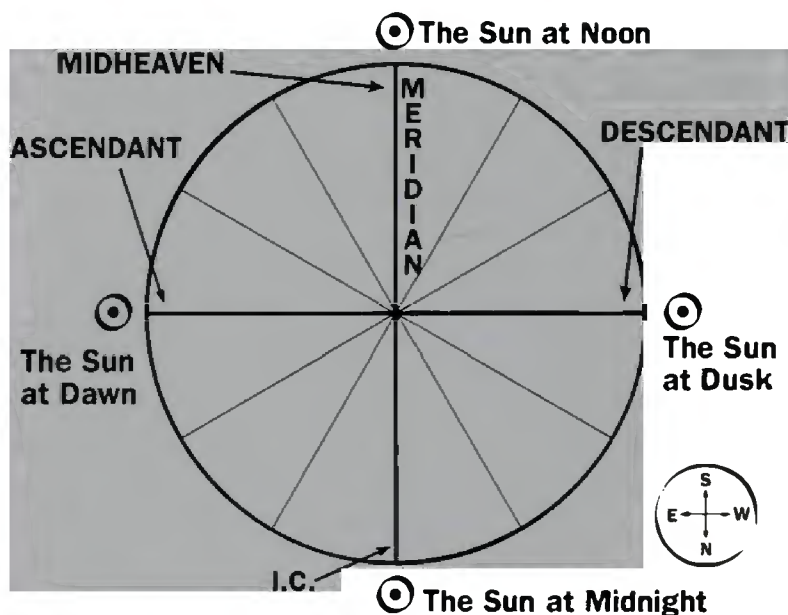


# CHART PARTS

The divisions and lines that tell the big-picture story of your chart

Every chart has key elements that aid interpretation. There's the horizon line that runs from the Ascendant across to the Descendant, and the meridian that runs from top to bottom. The four directional points created are significant, with meanings of their own. The Ascendant is your social mask and identity; the Descendant is where you meet the other. A line known as the IC (Imum Coeli) is your root of home,

## *Horizon and Meridian*



The Ascendant (personality, social mask) is left of the horizon line, and the Descendant (relating to others) is to the right.

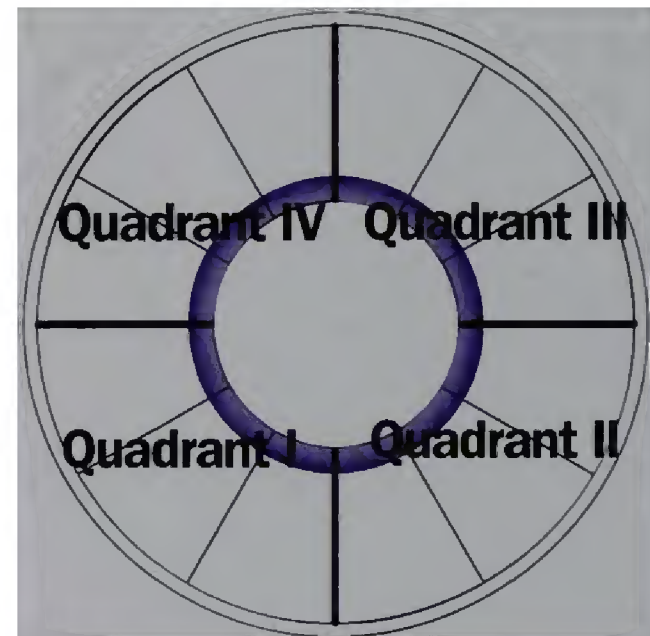
- The MC (career aspirations, personal authority) is at the top of the meridian; the IC (family inheritance, private life) is at the bottom.

- The horizon and meridian create a cross on the chart. Each of the four cardinal points, or angles, is a defining feature.
- Like a compass, the angles show a person's directional orientation in life.

memory, and the soul; the MC (Medium Coeli) shows your aspirations as the pinnacle of the chart.

A chart can also be divided into hemispheres and quadrants. A heads-up is necessary here—the hemispheres are the opposite of what we're used to seeing on a map. The southern hemisphere is above the horizon, and signifies areas where you're preoccupied with the outer world. The

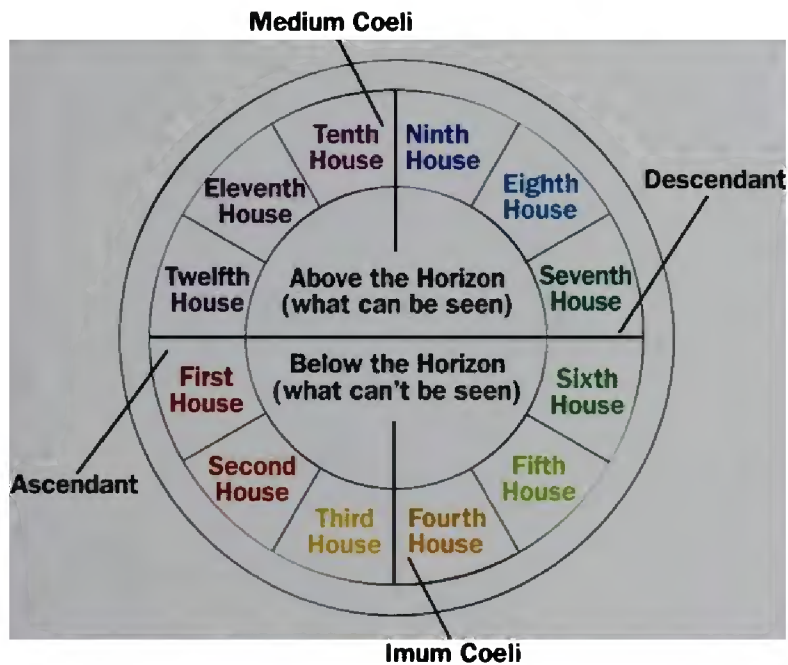
## *Quadrants on Wheel*



- Planets in the first quadrant act as self-sufficient stand-alones, initiating actions from a sense of personal identity.
- Planets in the second quadrant are focused on cultivation and creative productivity.
- Those in the third quadrant shine when engaged with others, whether through everyday relating, inspiring, teaching, or deep intimacy.
- Planets in the fourth quadrant are geared toward the collective, and often lead or take part in group efforts.

northern hemisphere lies below the horizon, and concerns more inward, self-focused pursuits. If most of your planets are in the northern hemisphere, for example, you're likely a self-contained, somewhat private person. If you've got a packed southern hemisphere, you're often in the public eye and dealing with broader social concerns. The next division is the pie split with the meridian line into eastern and western hemispheres. Planets in the eastern hemisphere show self-initiation; those in the western thrive on the dance with others, and are more reactive.

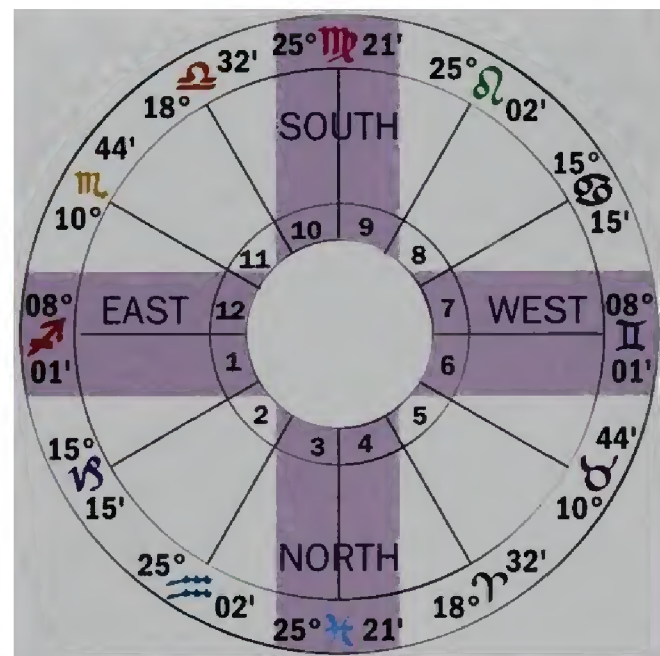
### *Below/Above Horizon*



- The planets above the horizon line were visible when you were born; those below it were invisible in the night sky.
- Very public people have an emphasis above the horizon—social reformers, leaders, or tell-all “stars” of entertainment.
- Having many planets above the horizon makes you extroverted, while if most are below, you tend to lead a more self-focused life.
- Those with many planets below the horizon live behind a veil, no matter how famous they are.

The four quadrants mirror the archetypal journey of the zodiac itself. The first quadrant deals with fulfilling the needs of the self and creating identity. The second centers on creativity and ways of healing others. The third leads us to relationships, while the fourth is oriented toward society as a whole.

### *East/West Hemispheres*



- Someone with many planets in the western hemisphere (right side) of the chart is responsive to others rather than an initiator.
- Someone with many planets in the eastern hemisphere (left side) of the chart is a take-charge type who forges his own path.
- This chart emphasis denotes a person who thrives in the give-and-take of working with others.
- This chart emphasis creates a go-getter who makes her own opportunities in life.



# HOUSES

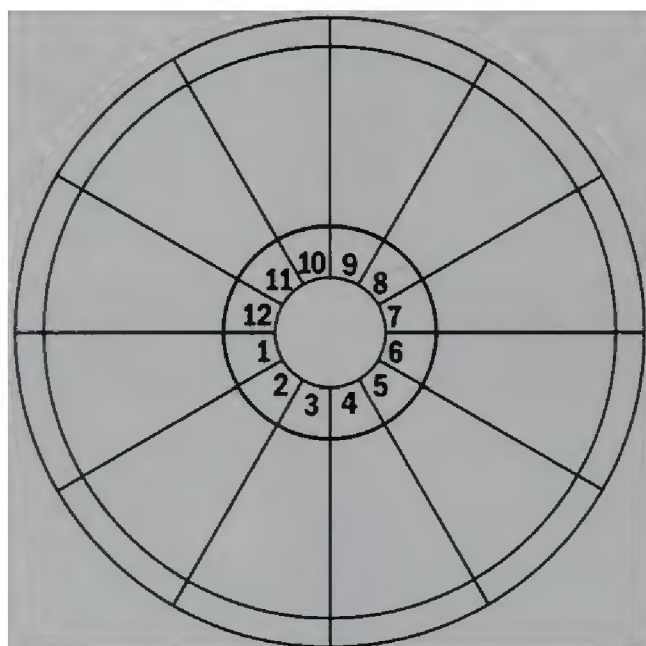
The 12 domains of life experience in which planets play out their dramas

There are 12 houses in a birth chart, each with a different meaning. These are the symbolic spheres of life that determine when, where, and how a planet's essence comes through. Each planet "falls" into a certain house, which reveals where its activity is concentrated. A look at your chart tells you where your own planets fall. They may be bundled in two or

three houses, or spread widely into every house.

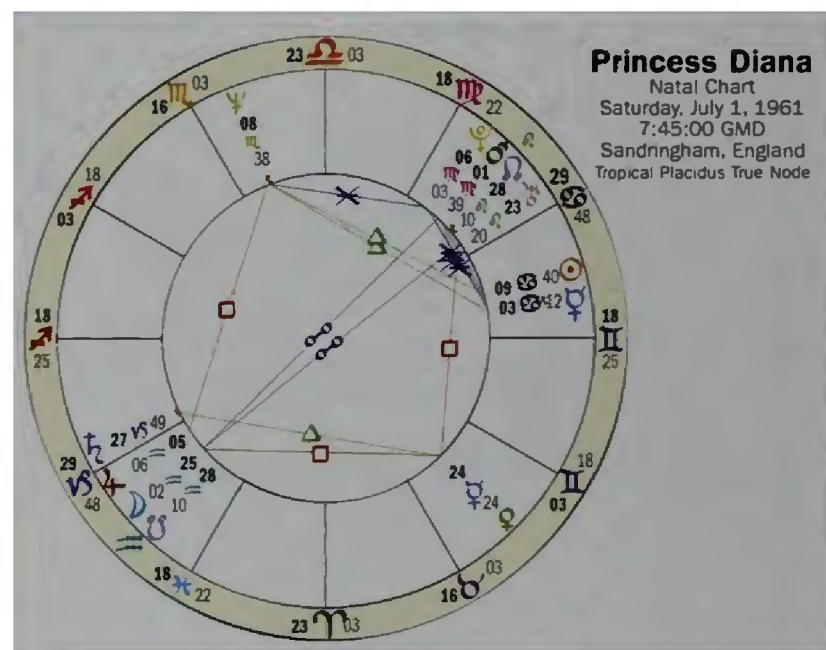
To interpret your blend, consider the planet, in its sign, and in its house. What emerges is an intuitive impression of how that mix plays out in your life. The houses have traditional meanings; the 8th House, for instance, is linked to sex, death, and taxes. But these classifications can get too rigid. Let the

## House Divisions



- Looking at the planets in their houses adds another layer to your understanding of chart themes.
- The houses have been described as rooms we visit. Even if a particular house has no planets, it's still a part of our blueprint.
- The zodiac sign within a house determines the rhythm, behavior, and attitude we have toward that field of life experience.
- If your chart has planets packed in one or two houses this reveals where your life action will happen.

## Princess Di's Houses



- Princess Diana's Sun and Mercury are in the 7th House of Partnerships, showing her need for communication and stability.
- Her Moon in Aquarius is in the 2nd House of Wealth and Values; she joined her values with those of the world at large.
- Her Venus in Taurus was in the 5th House of Children, Creativity, and Romance—and her playful style charmed others.
- Diana's 2nd and 8th Houses reveal the tension between her own values and those she married into (8th House).

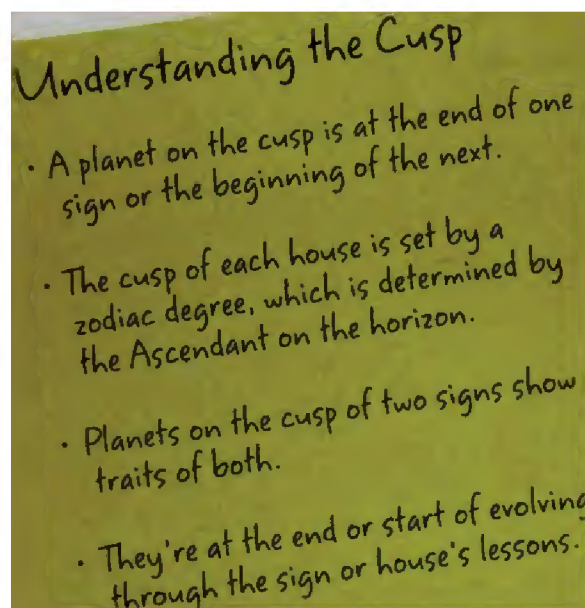
synthesis of the planet, sign, and house guide you, but keep your focus on your own life journey. As you grow and explore a life sphere (house), its meaning changes, along with your insights. For example, if your Taurus Sun is in the 5th House, you may know quite young that you're drawn to the arts. As your interests are refined, your passions guide you to a specific field of expression—say, pottery or sculpture.

### *Planets in Houses*

- The houses of your personal planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars) are where you shine and are tested as an individual.
- The houses of your social planets show where your individual nature meets society's expansions (Jupiter) or restrictions (Saturn).
- The houses of transpersonal planets (Uranus, Neptune, Pluto) show where collectively shared forces play out in your life.
- If you've got many planets in one house, the dominant zodiac sign shows the "how" and the house shows the activities involved.

## MAKE IT EASY

There are many ways to divide the houses. This book uses the common Placidus system. If you're using another system, the planets may fall in different houses. The most common other systems are Topocentric and Koch. As you advance in your study of astrology, you might wish to learn more about how different systems will alter your interpretation.





# PLANETS & POINTS

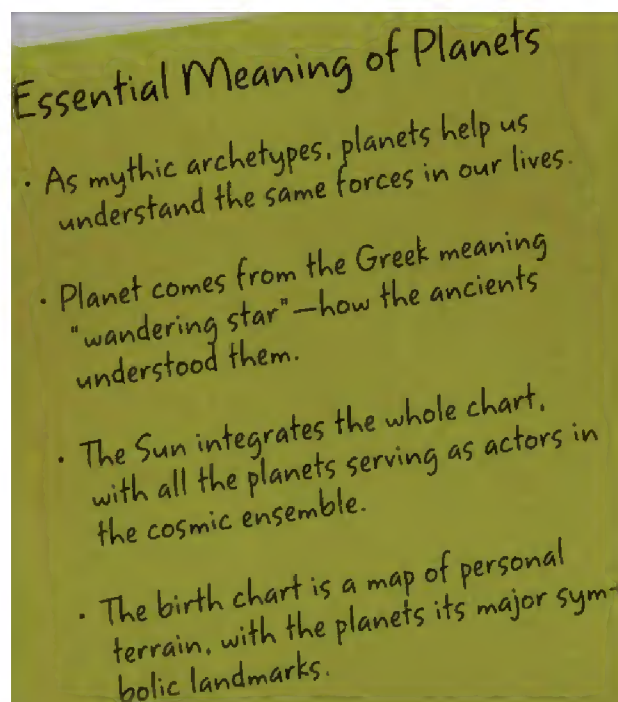
The prevailing cosmic influences that set your course and are catalysts for change

The main players in the birth chart are the planets, and each comes loaded with meaning. In astrology, the 10 key planets are the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Pluto, and Uranus.

You can call them the movers and the shakers of your life story. Their position in your chart shows where these dynamic

bodies were at the fixed moment of your birth. The zodiac signs through which they act shape the way they go about their planetary business. To find a sign, look on the cusp of each house around the outside of the wheel. That exact moment in the celestial dance of planets, with its quality of light, tensions, and harmonies, is impressed on your nature.

## *Planets in Orbit*



- All the planets orbit the Sun against the backdrop of the fixed stars of the ecliptic.
- Planets orbit at different speeds, with the Moon (the Earth's satellite) being the fastest, and Pluto the slowest.
- The order from nearest to farthest from the Sun is Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.
- The Moon orbits the Sun every 27 days, while Pluto needs 248 years to make one revolution.

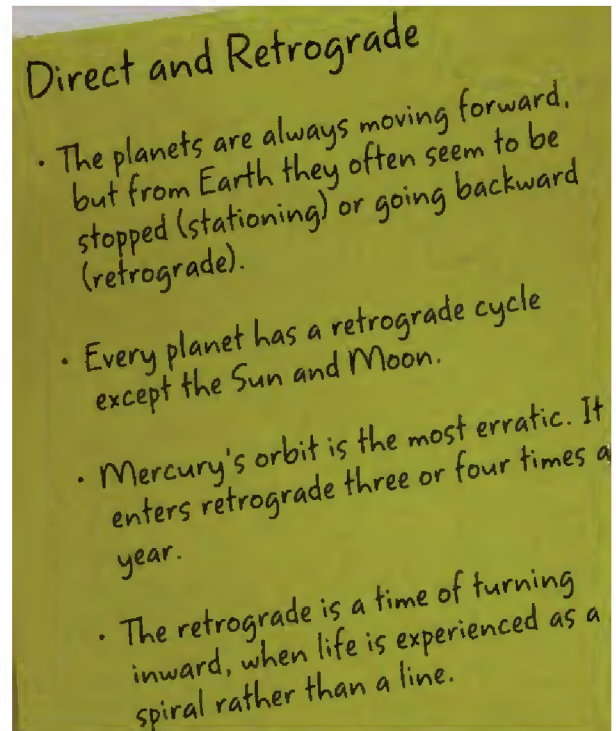
Most people already know their Sun sign. Learning the rest of the picture is often a series of aha moments. Say you've always known you're a Scorpio, and just found out that your Moon is in Aquarius. On the chart, you'll see the Sun glyph in the house with Scorpio on the cusp; the Moon glyph will be in the Aquarius house. All the planets are laid out on the chart in the house of their zodiac sign, revealing their relationships.

### *Armillary Sphere*

- The armillary sphere was a Greek invention that showed the Earth within the ring of the zodiacal band, or ecliptic.
- Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are called modern planets because they were invisible until the invention of the telescope.
- Earth—the reference point for birth charts—isn't usually considered a planet.
- In the early 16th century, Copernicus presented his theory that the planets revolve around the Sun; previously it was thought that planets revolved around the Earth.

## MAKE IT EASY

- Some charts show the 10 planets, those with more detail include Chiron (between Saturn and Uranus), the asteroids, and the Nodes of the Moon.
- In the beginning it helps to keep things simple, adding the 10 planets slowly to build on what you already know about your Sun sign.



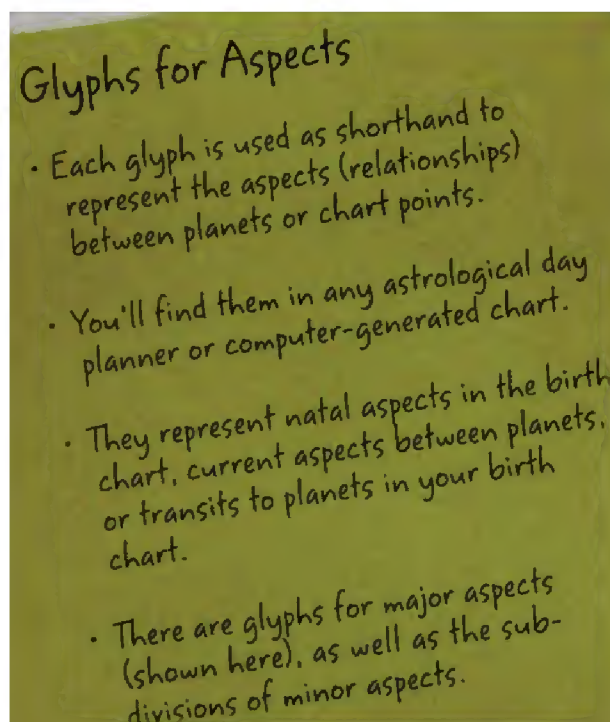
# ASPECTS






The angles between planets create energies in the birth chart

The relationships among the planets are known as aspects. The chart shows the planets around the wheel, and the angles they form to one another. The degree of the angle determines what kind of aspect it is. What's crucial to understand is that aspects are a fusion of the energy of two planets. This meeting will create either tension or harmony, affecting how that planet moves in your life. For example, let's say your

Mercury is in Cancer, and your Mars is in Libra. Because they are 90 degrees apart in your chart, they form a square. This pits the two together, causing sparks to fly in areas of speaking your mind (Mercury) and initiating ideas (Mars). From this aspect a third dynamic comes into being: the urgent thrust toward finding equilibrium. Far from being negative, squares actually prod you to learn through your mistakes,

## *Aspect Degree Chart*



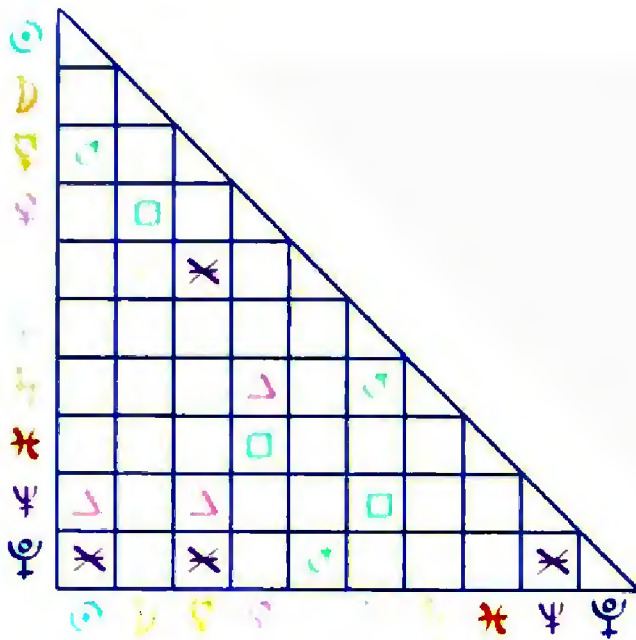
Symbol	Degrees
	0°
	180°
	90°
	120°
	60°

- You can figure aspects by looking at how many degrees apart planets are on the chart.
- This chart also shows how you can find aspects by how many signs apart they are on the wheel.
- This lists the major aspects, which is further broken down by the minor aspects.
- Conjunctions happen between different signs, when in close enough degrees.

and that leads to mastery over your own built-in contradictory impulses.

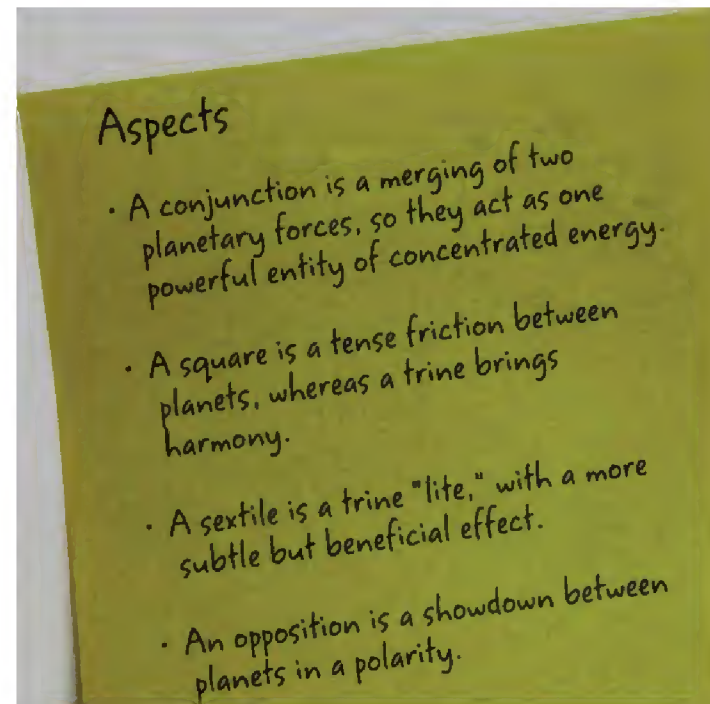
Trines connect planets in easy synchronicity, concentrating two planetary energies together. Along with planetary aspects, there are also aspects to the Ascendant and the MC, or Midheaven. Planets that are near the Ascendant have a huge influence on self-image, and any planet that conjuncts the MC will greatly guide your career decisions.

### Princess Di's Aspect Grid



- Follow the planet glyphs at the left and bottom; the aspect glyph is shown where they intersect on the grid.
- Reading the first glyph at the top of the box, we see that Princess Diana's Mercury is conjunct her Sun—a common aspect.
- The yellow square below that shows a disharmony between her Venus and her Moon.
- The next line shows an opposition between Mars and the Moon, and a sextile between Mars and Mercury.

Each aspect has what's called an orb of influence. This means that the aspect degrees don't have to be exact. Astrologers allow planets whose angular relationship is within a 5 to 8-degree orb to be considered aspects.



# 1ST HOUSE

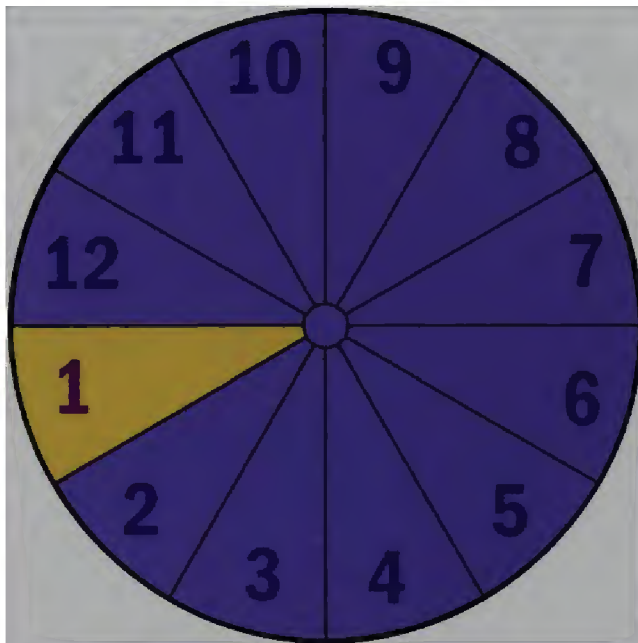
The personality veil, early experiences, and the self that engages with the world

This is the house, or life sphere of identity, appearance, and the social mask. What goes on in the 1st House is usually on display for all to see. This mix of traits, quirks, and style makes up your public persona. The Ascendant dominates this house, and the particularities of its zodiac sign can be seen in the personal facade. The rising sign and planets here shape

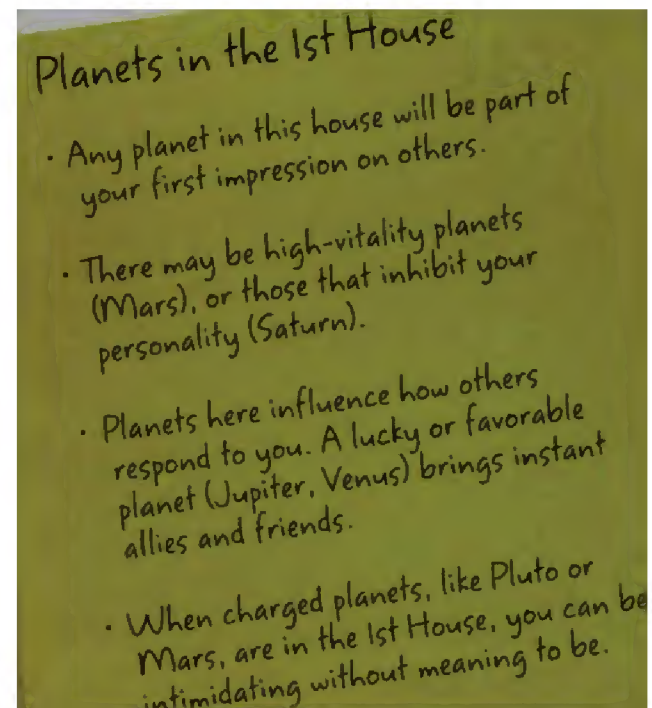
even your physical attributes, and have an impact on health. The head and face fall under its domain. It's by no means superficial, though; astrologers consider the 1st House just as revealing as the Sun sign.

The world is met through the 1st House and that's no small matter. It's a key to self-image, and yet it's the face others

## 1st House



- The degree of your Ascendant begins your 1st House, but some planets here may be in the next zodiac sign.
- Planets in the 12th House, close to the Ascendant, act on the personality in subtle, often unconscious ways.
- The polarity is to the 7th House, where the identity meets the significant other in its many guises.
- The qualities of your 1st House and Ascendant become more prominent in your later years.





see, the first impression. Because it's turned outward, it's the aspects of personality that we don't necessarily see—they're so close to us as to be under the radar. And that's why it's often strange to hear how others see us; they are encountering the outer veil of personality.

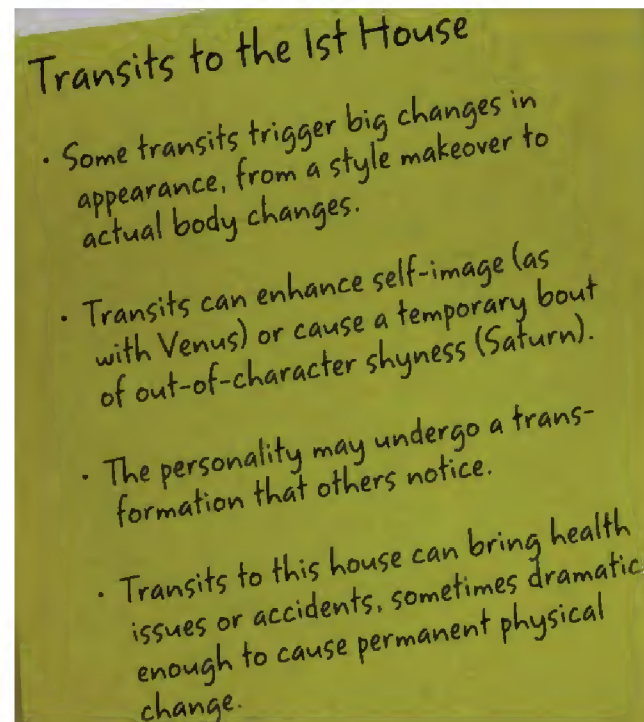
The natural sign of the 1st House is Aries, and the natural ruler is Mars. What's taken from that is presence and vitality . . . the unique way you dance with the world and live the experience of I am. The planets in this house hugely alter your early experiences and physical bearing. They determine

## Childhood

- Hard squares in the 1st House can indicate special strains early in life.
- Childhood traumas from difficult aspects can be like a cloak worn into adulthood, until there is healing.
- Why is one child is serious and mature, while another has no boundaries? The clues lie in this house.
- The 1st House includes adolescence, so the entire developmental period shapes the personality.

whether you are an open book or secretive; come on strong or are aloof, cautious. And because this sets life events or relationships in motion, it sets the rhythm for all experience.

The 1st House is about beginnings, starting with childhood, but also first encounters throughout life. Planets moving through this house give your persona an (sometimes extreme) overhaul. A cosmic visitor at this front door can fire you up, cast a love glamour, or trigger big style or even physical changes.





# 2ND HOUSE

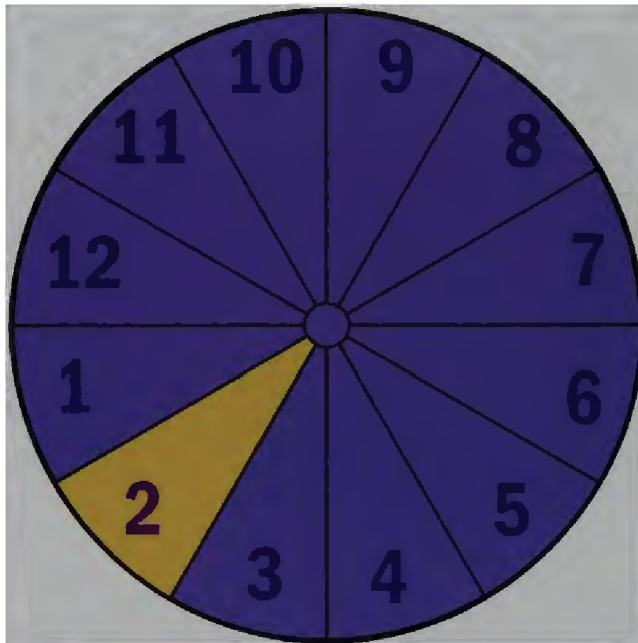
## Established and growing a life based on your values

The 2nd house is that of money, values, and self-worth. It reveals your attitude toward wealth and possessions, as well as how you share that pile of stuff with those bound to you by marriage or family ties. Its natural sign is Taurus; its natural ruler Venus. After the initiation of the 1st House, the 2nd is about how you gain substance, settle in, and deal in tangibles like ownership, gardening, and wealth building. The

Venusian influence adds to your sensuality and enjoyment of earthly delights, whether alone or with others. It signifies the romance that thrives in an abundant garden of your own creation, and the simple satisfaction that comes from being a human animal engaging through your five senses.

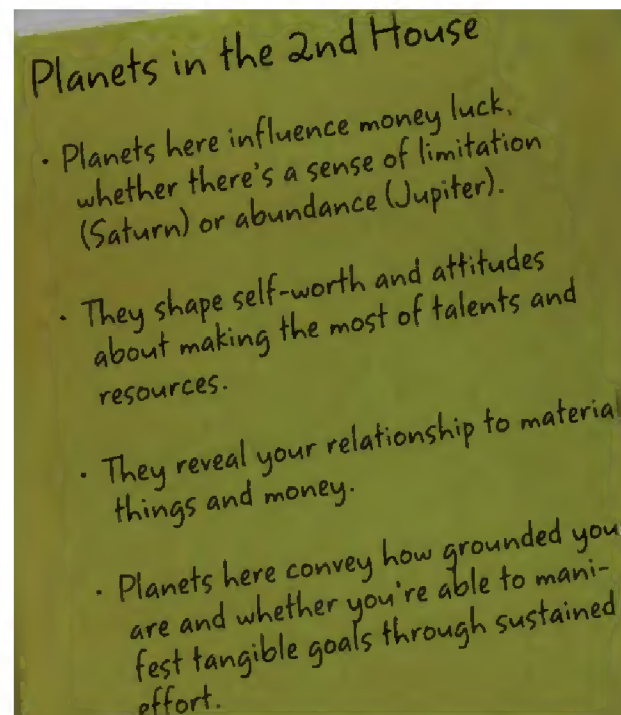
The physical world is in focus in the 2nd House, with concerns of building, cultivating, creating a nest and a secure

### *2nd House*



Like the 6th and 10th, this “work house” deals with establishing and growing a personal foundation.

- Planets in the 1st House, but near the cusp of the 2nd, show where your identity is merged with themes of self-sufficiency and wealth.
- Planets in the 3rd House, but near the cusp of the 2nd, show how you disperse your talents/ resources in the busy, changing marketplace.
- The opposite house is the 8th, which centers on OPM— “other people’s money”— and the merging of assets.



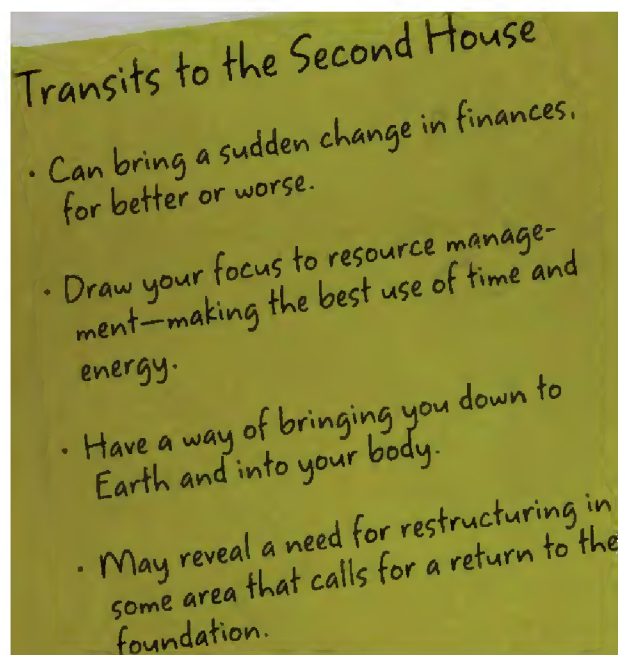
home life. Your values about money, bartering, and other ways of exchange take root here, and your sense of your own value comes into view as well. "What are you worth?" is a question that frightens some, and is met by aggressive self-confidence in others. All areas of value exchange, from salary negotiation to haggling over a flea market find, fall here.

This house is the life arena that follows childhood, when you're asked to be self-sufficient. The ability to take care of yourself comes from lessons about making a living and whether you are thriving or merely surviving. If there are

### *Earthly Delights*

- This is an earth house, oriented toward direct experience through the senses.
- It's where you'll find the bounty of the table and enjoyment of life's simple pleasures.
- The 2nd House conveys an innate understanding of natural rhythms, and that extends into the beauty of human artistic expression.
- Its domain includes tactile pleasures, a healthy libido, and an appreciation of the human form.

significant planets in your 2nd House, these set conditions for ease or hurdles, and add potency to these lessons. Passing planets through this house can bring sudden good fortune, a time of strict budgeting, or challenges that rattle your sense of self-worth.



# 3RD HOUSE

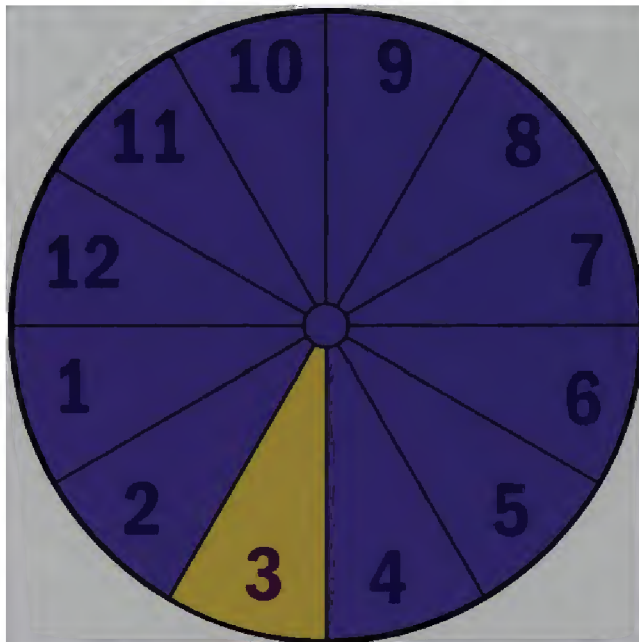
The world as a playground of ideas, and the social exchanges that shape our perception

This is a busy house, filled with the familiar faces we see around town—at the coffee shop, or on television. Its natural sign is Gemini and natural ruler, Mercury. This house spins speedily on the casual encounters with passersby, short trips, siblings, the media whirl, and the exchange of information. You find here clues to how you take in all the snippets and

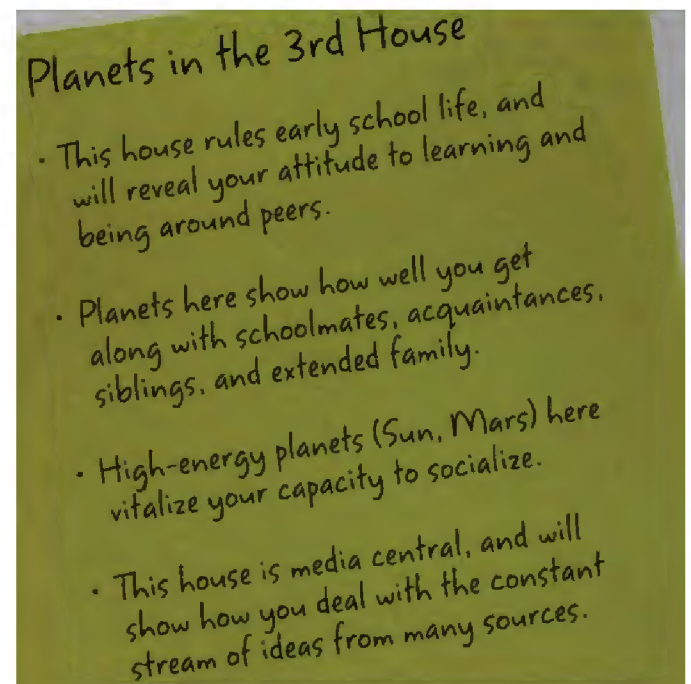
factoids heard in a day, translate them, and pass them on. It's the province of the rumor mill, and the buzz of folks texting, e-mailing, and chatting, often while on the go. The emphasis is on how perceptions are shared on the fly and the atmosphere it creates.

Moving from the entrenched and settled 2nd House, this

## 3rd House



- Planets in the 2nd House, near the 3rd House cusp, show where social exchanges influence the way you create abundance.
- Planets here reveal how the early social scene shaped your conscious views, and whether they're fluid or set in stone.
- Planets in the 4th House, near the 3rd House cusp, show a blending of the home and public life—to good and ill effect.
- The atmosphere determines your social filter and level of inhibitions.

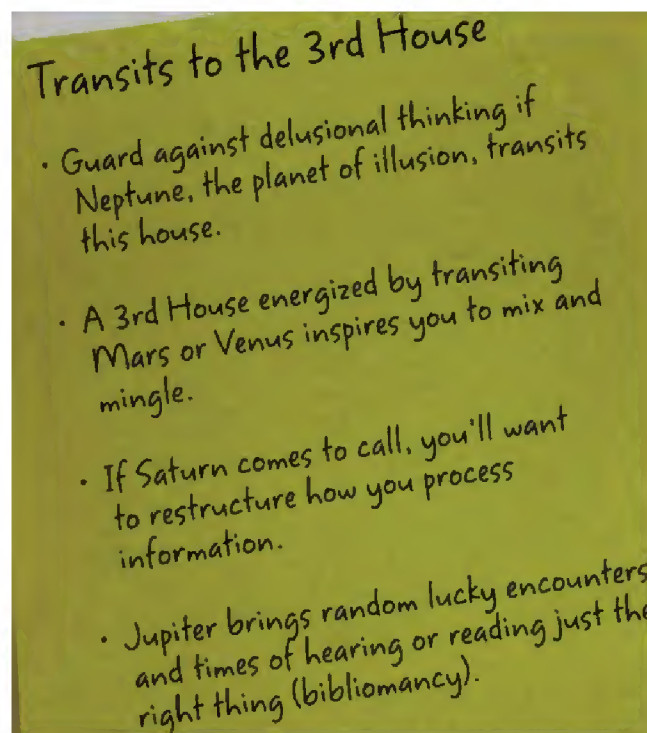


next one involves collecting and dispersal, with the scattering of ideas from one person to the next. The spaces of random or planned public exchange, like libraries, pubs, cafes, and grocery stores are where this plays out. This is also the house of early learning, when you're in the mix with siblings or classmates. It involves the shaping of attitudes, perceptions, social and cultural ideas through exchanges with peers. Later on this is carried into the office, where conversations over the watercooler are a way to make sense of life events or news.

### *Social Curiosity*

- The 3rd House is where you instinctively let down your "mask of anonymity."
- Its stage is the well-trod local environment where ideas from a global landscape meet.
- Its players are shopkeepers we see every day, acquaintances, aunts and uncles, and people met in passing.
- This house also concerns the very formation of language, with brothers and sisters playing a key role as sounding boards.

The 3rd House is about how folks share the cosmic joke by laughing over life's absurdities, or find out where the best deals are or the latest health tip. We learn from each other's experiences, and compare notes. Planets in this house determine your casual public style, the part of you that is out and about, taking it all in. A packed 3rd House lures you to where the action is in a highly social, fast-paced environment, like journalism or the restaurant business.



# 4TH HOUSE

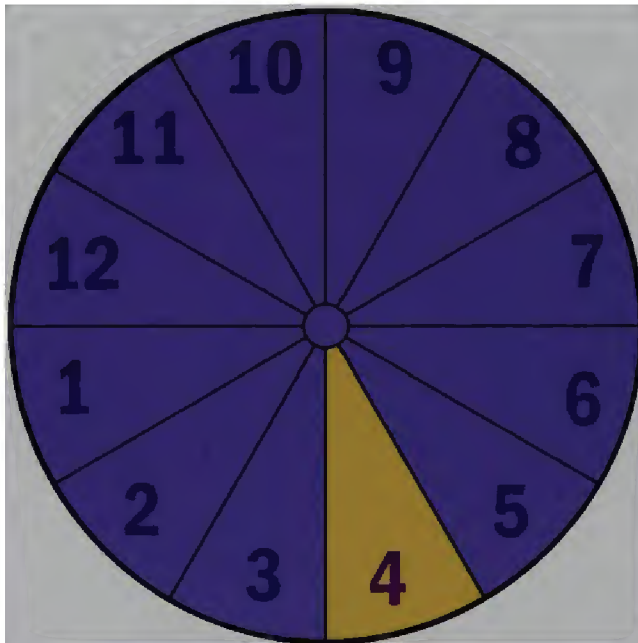
The home sanctuary where you rest, dream, soul-travel, create, and give or receive mothering

The 4th House is the place of home and family life. Its natural sign is Cancer and its natural ruler, the Moon. This is the realm of the emotional landscape, moods, the unconscious, and the imagination. It shows you how you retreat and refill the emotional well. It's a point of sensitivity in the chart, where you instinctively look to build a fortress. The 4th House is the

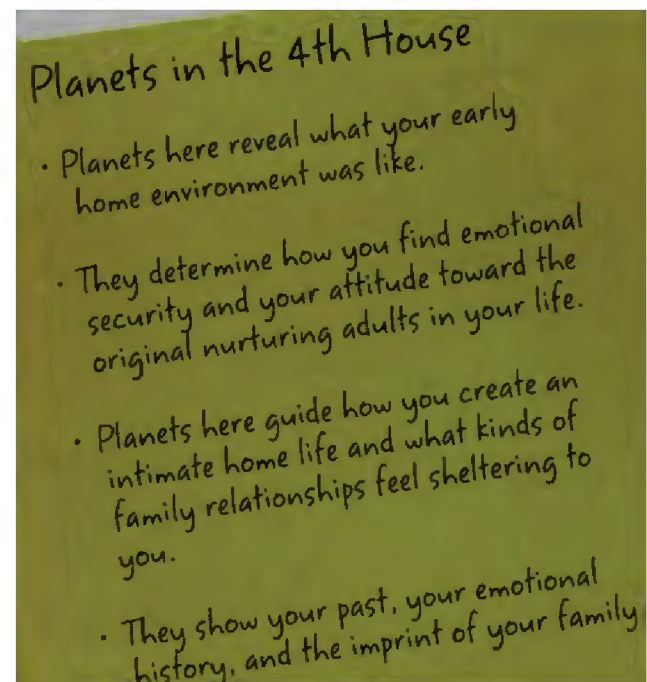
actual shelter of home, which gives you a secure base, a refuge from the noisy public arena of the 3rd House. That's why home renovation and real estate fall here. It conjures all the comforts of home, from cozy slippers to something savory on the stove.

This house determines whether you've found domestic

## 4th House



- The sign on the 4th House cusp provides the ambient emotional lighting in your home.
- Planets along the 3rd/4th House cusp bring the stirrings of the public sphere into the private.
- Planets along the 4th/5th House cusp make your home life the raw material in areas of creative self-expression, play, romance, hobbies, and fun.
- This house determines whether you stay put for years or change homes as often as you change hats.





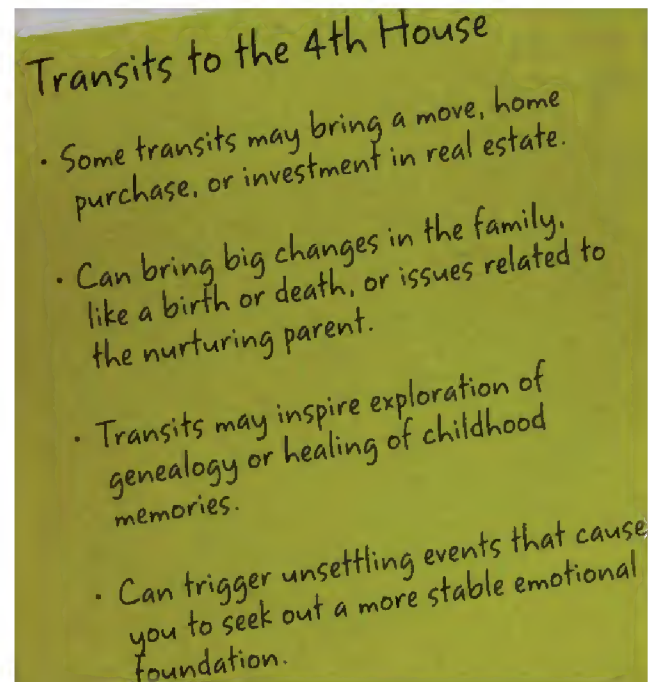
bliss or are still unsure what “home” really means. It’s where homesickness emerges in a transient world, and the desire to belong to a close-knit tribe. The mood set by planets and the house ruler determines how you create family or let others in at the deepest level. This house deals with mothering and your experience of that nurturing influence, whether it was Mom or Dad. It’s the enveloping, protective figure, a role you take on with your own children, animals, or friends. The roots of memory are here, going into the ancestral past.

Preoccupations of this house include family, regional, or

### *Home and Ancestry*

- This house shows your ability to self-soothe and to take the time you need to process what’s happening.
- It determines whether you’re a full-fledged homebody, a rolling stone, or—like most people—a mix of the two.
- It’s the hideout of family skeletons, secrets, and patterns that bind us to family even after we’ve flown the coop.
- It enters the realm of dreams and shadows, where what is seen is often merely a reflection of the subjective inner reality.

national history; genealogy; even past lives. The emotional legacy of past generations and trailings of karmic soul pain fall in this life sphere. Planets here determine how you find the home within, and a home in the real world. Transits to this house can bring on a sudden move or revelation about where you belong.





# 5TH HOUSE

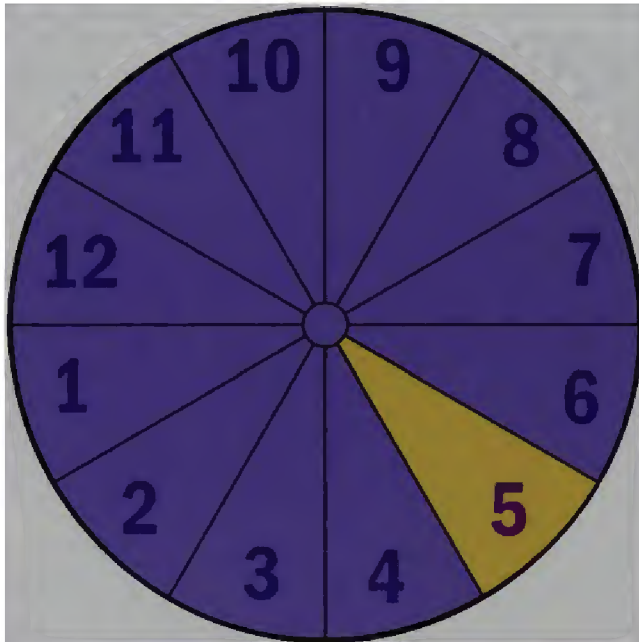
The celebration of life, and the drive to share personal richness with others

Welcome to the fun house, the province of pleasure in all its guises. The natural sign is Leo; the natural ruler, the Sun. The traditional association is with all things that brighten life, like children, hobbies, and parties. Romance either flourishes or lies dormant here, waiting to be awakened. It's more apt to concern a love affair or casual flirtation than the more

committed partnerships of the 7th House. But a vibrant 5th House lends a lust for life that's irresistible and draws suitors like bees to honey.

The 5th House is the honeymoon phase, the breathless first few dates, the fire that ignites the passions and, in rare cases, keeps it lit for a lifetime. Love is a risk of the heart, and this

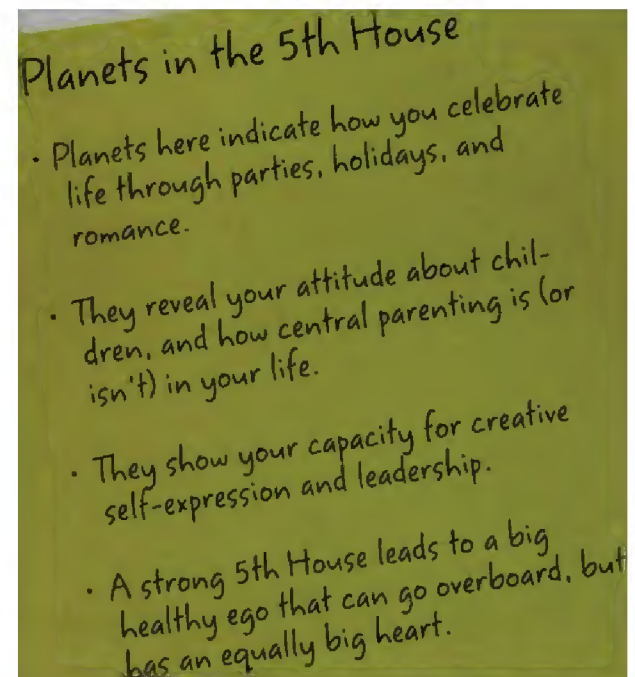
## 5th House



- This house indicates whether there will be children, or obstacles to parenthood.

Planets here dampen or compel a psychological need to shine, create, and live large

- Planets in the 4th House, near the 5th House cusp, make the past, memories, and ancestral traditions the inspiration for creative ideas.
- Planets in the 6th House near the 5th House cusp add a sense of service to what's being cultivated here.

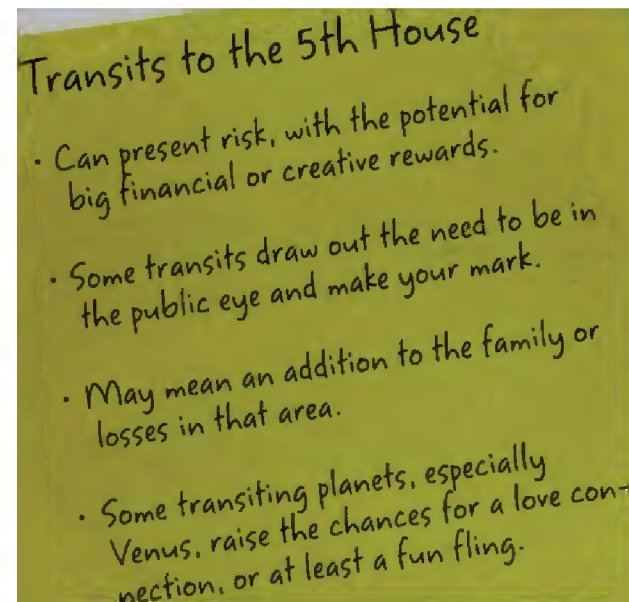


house concerns the extension of the self in ways that seem courageous or reckless. It's associated with gambling, taking a proud stand, having children, and great creative feats. The potential for artistic expression is found here, the kind that emerges from the unique self and its personal aura and experience. What's created, whether children or a piece of artwork, is considered an extension of the self.

After the cloistered 4th House, the path of the wheel moves into the exuberant celebration of life's color and peak moments. The capacity for happiness is found here, with clues

### *Child's Play*

about what makes life feel like an epic adventure. Its tenor determines whether you choose to seize the day or let life's opportunities pass by. The vital fires are stoked here, and the heavy hand of self-denial can lead to a depressed 5th House. If you've lost your groove, look here for clues to rekindle joy and the pursuit of pleasures that make life worth living.



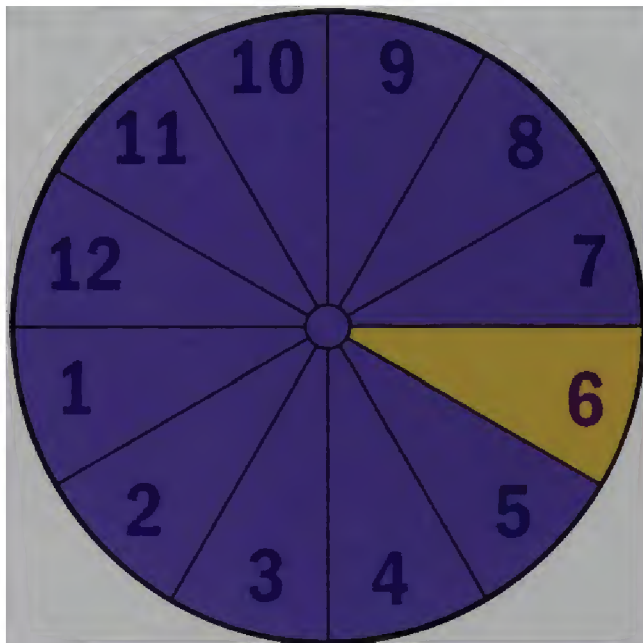
- This house is about the capacity for play, both as a child and, later, as an adult in the world of children.
- It's the domain of the father—progenitor of the family line, and kingly head of the household.
- This carries into all seeds of creation that emerge with the unique stamp of the self.
- It's where your inner risk taker is set free (or inhibited) in the pursuit of luxuries, excess, big spending, speculative ventures, and remarkable acts of generosity.

# 6TH HOUSE

The quest for balance, healing, and productivity in the unfolding of the day

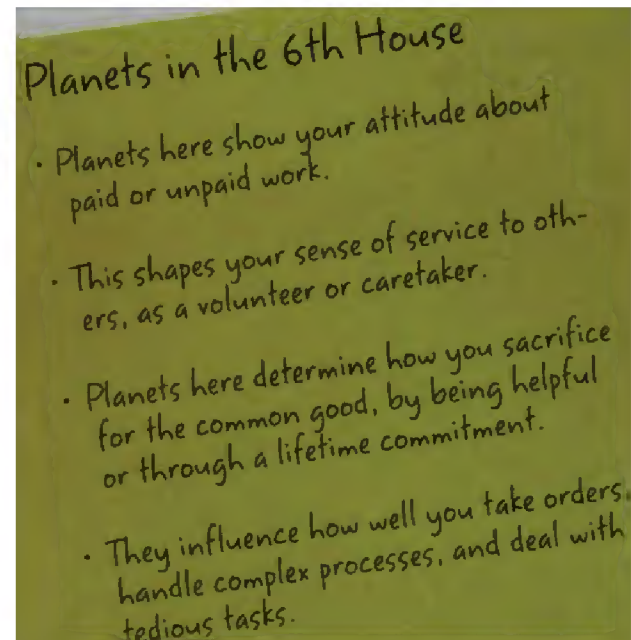
The essence of this house is the continual tweaking of daily life, including work and health. Like the 2nd and 10th, it's a "work house," and often this refers to what we do to get by. It points to the kinds of work environments we'll seek, and our rapport with colleagues. When work is a joblet on the path to the real career, it's squarely in the realm of the 6th House.

## 6th House



- Planets in the 5th House, near the 6th House cusp, draw you to healthy habits that are fun, too.
- Planets in the 7th House, near the 6th House cusp, mean you share your routine—say, having a jogging partner.
- The Virgin aspect to this house requires solitude to maintain inner unity.
- Your standards of clean are found here, and what you do to purify yourself.

But if your job happens to be your career, it's also here. Paid or volunteer, it matters not. That's because it's all about setting the day-to-day rhythm and determining your overall sense of well-being. Its natural sign is Virgo and its natural ruler, Mercury (in more recent times, Chiron). What is sought here is wholeness, self-containment . . . nothing short of perfection.



It's where we find our well-meaning but sometimes demoralizing internal critic.

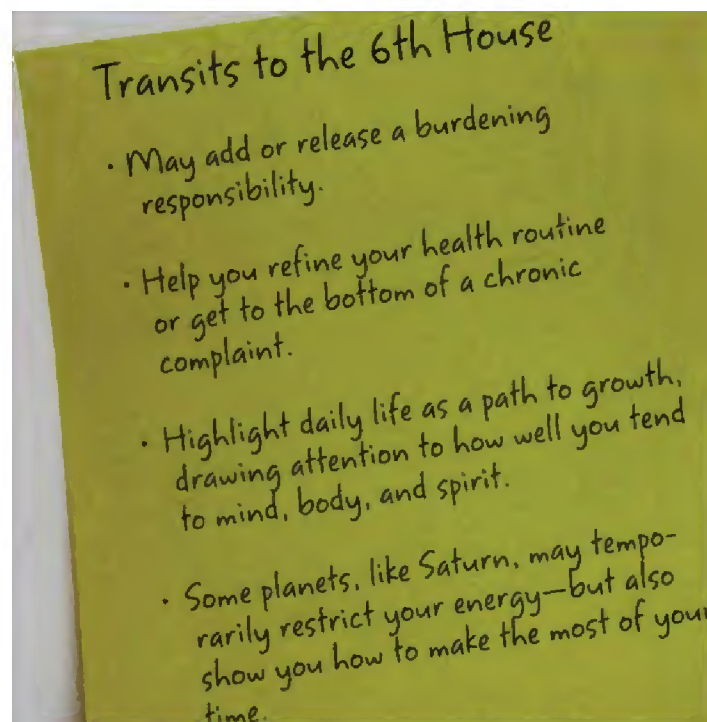
The 6th House is home to the practical mystic in us that sees daily life as the place where real growth happens. This includes giving of time and talent through service, and a sense of devotion. It might be service to the homeless or showing devotion through a yoga practice. This house shows the path to integration of mind, body, and spirit, and reveals what kind of daily activities bring those things together.

A prominent 6th House (with lots of major planets) turns

## *Healing*

- The healer of the 6th House is often drawn to holistic fields such as homeopathy, massage, and nutrition.
- The medical profession fulfills the need for a technical, mentally challenging career that is of service to others.
- The daily care of animals, especially small ones, falls in this domain.
- An analytical mind is applied to tangible processes—the result is an eye for practical solutions and fixing broken systems.

this instinct for holistic thinking into a life path. It shows the capacity for knowing how to heal the self and others through trial and error. The activities of this house are hands-on, with an emphasis on physical and natural systems. What's revealed in your 6th House is no less than the path to wholeness and living your ideals in daily life.



# 7TH HOUSE

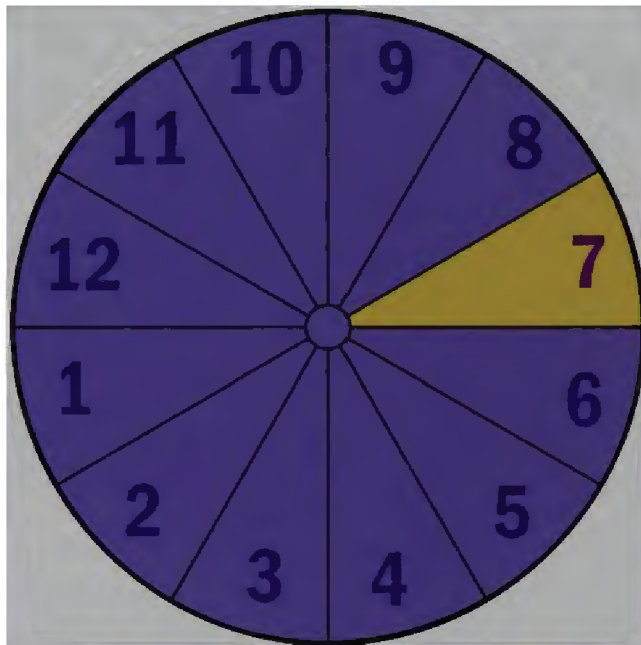
The experience of pairing up and discovering what's me, what's you, and what's us

The 7th House is where you face off with another in the realm of long-term relationships, working partnerships, or even as rivals. On the wheel, it follows the "I'm working on myself right now" 6th House into the tango with a significant other. Its natural sign is Libra and its natural ruler, Venus. It concerns the give-and-take in marriage and your attitude

toward commitment. The atmosphere set by signs and planets conveys your vision of your one and only to share life with. Sometimes that vision becomes a projected image of what you desire rather than the flesh-and-blood person.

This house has lessons where you confront any issues in the daily real-world effort of trying to make love work. Here

## 7th House



- The sign on the cusp of the 7th House is the Descendant, at the degree it was descending over the western horizon.
- Its polarity, the 1st House of Identity, reveals the balance between the self image alone and when with a partner.
- Planets in the 6th House, near the 7th House cusp, may lead to a marriage of partners who work and play together.
- Planets in the 8th House, near the 7th House cusp, add passion and a desire to merge completely.

## Planets in the 7th House

- Planets here color your attitude about relating to others, whether the public at large, a friend, competitor, or mate.
- They shape how much you project an enemy or evil twin onto others to encounter a part of yourself.
- They show luck in marriage (Jupiter) or delay and the heavy responsibility (Saturn) associated with long-term relationships.
- They guide your growth in significant friendships.



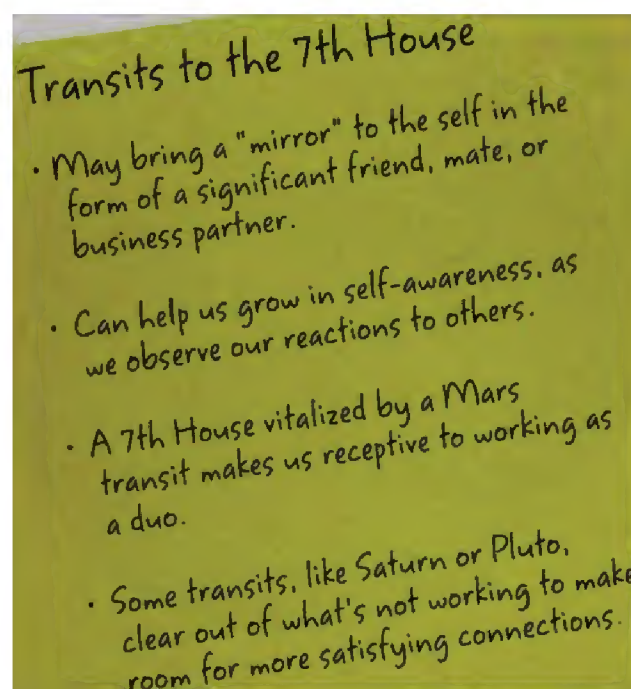
relationships are a mirror, but often revealing aspects of the self that are buried or rejected. That's why you'll find your archnemesis lurking in the 7th House. As the song goes, there's a thin line between love and hate. The reactions triggered in you by others tell you about your own prejudices and un-lived potential. The green-eyed monster can emerge if someone has qualities or achievements you want.

This is the house of competitors and open enemies, because they embody "the other half" that lies in shadow within ourselves. So much happens among friends, as we use their lives

### *The Me in We*

- The motto of the 7th House may be, Everyone we meet is a teacher.
- The reactions of others often challenge our own self-image, and this helps us to be more objective about strengths and weaknesses.
- This house shapes your capacity for tact, mediating an argument, and weighing your options.
- It shows your capacity to fight for the underdog, right a wrong, or do what you can to foster peace in our world.

as a point of comparison. Good friends fall here, especially the ones who help you see the true, undistorted picture of who you are. The mood of this house shows how you harmonize your rhythm with others, to be part of the twosome. A conflicted 7th House brings intensity and love life troubles, making it a crucible in which to discover the deepest layers of self.



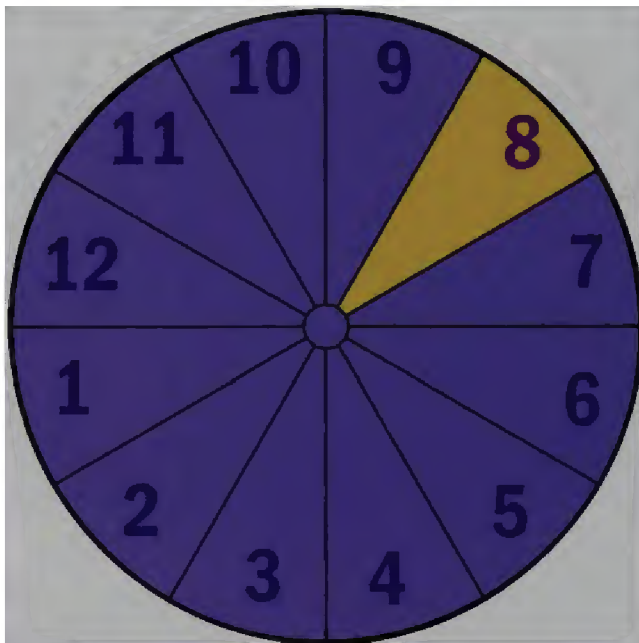


# 8TH HOUSE

Money, bodies, souls, and psyche merge in the fertile, terrifying landscape of the dark

There's intensity in this house, as the chart's entry to the dark void of creation. Here's where you meet the mysteries of birth and rebirth. It plays out the concept that energy never dies, it just changes from one form to another, and that includes the reincarnation of souls. It's where the seeds of the new emerge out of a seemingly mysterious place.

## 8th House

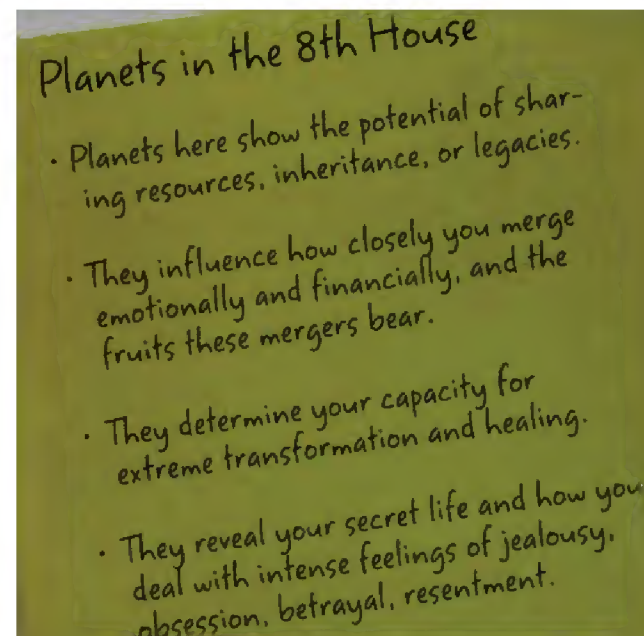


- The polarity is the 2nd House of Personal Wealth, and here we have marriage or shared family assets or debts (like inheritance or taxes).

This house shows your capacity to shed your skin and go through symbolic death stages.

- Planets in the 9th House, along the 8th House cusp, turn your metaphysical interests into a full-fledged pursuit of knowledge.
- Planets in the 7th House, along the 8th House cusp, means your plunges into soul depths are often shared experiences.

Sexuality and overwhelming desires churn here as expressions of the spirit merging with primordial passions. There is a catharsis and release in the sex act, the orgiastic "little death" that comes from dipping into those wild, powerful waters. This house shows how you meet the untamable side of your nature—whether you repress it or open to it



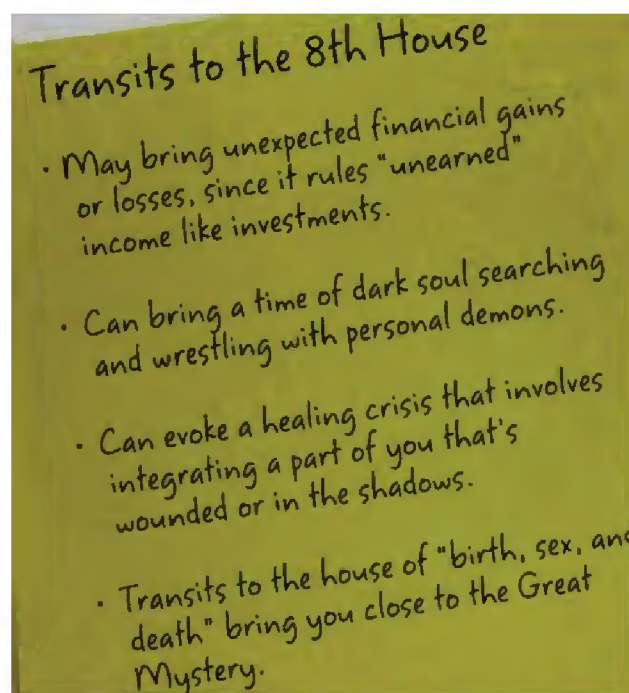
raw power. Its natural sign is Scorpio and its natural ruler, Pluto.

It's the house of the threshold of life and death, where giving birth takes a woman to the edge, and she is transformed. It's the house of shamans and healers who retrieve aspects of the soul that lie in shadow. A key word is transmutation, a natural process not unlike composting life's toxic, dead, or rotten leavings and using them to fertilize the new. It's the death process, which is a surrender to the Great Mystery on a journey to the next life.

### *Sex and Death*

- Here you'll find love's ecstatic heights as well as its shadow forms, like jealousy, obsession, compulsive acts, and vengeance.
- The danger of merging is that another will "steal your soul" or move subtly to exert control.
- In this house love is no casual affair but a dive into the merging of body and soul; a sharing both of darkness and light.
- This house forces you to face what frightens you and free yourself from emotional vampires that drain your life force or resources.

The 8th House holds all that's secret, supernatural, or eludes conscious awareness. There's a psychological component, since the probing here delves deep into the psyche. A strong 8th House draws you to the complexities of human emotion, the darker the better. Its dramas are extreme and not for the faint of heart: crimes of passion, sexual control and personal demons. There's danger and possibility when you merge with the powers of creation, and that's played out here.



# 9TH HOUSE

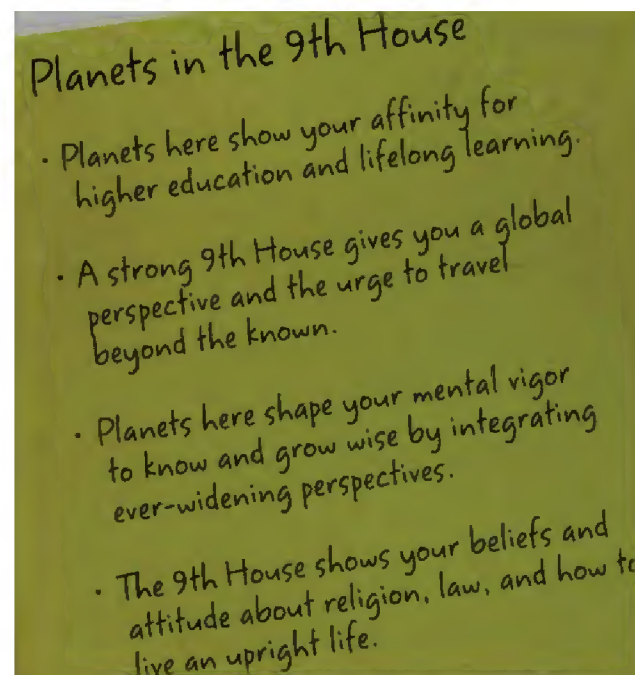
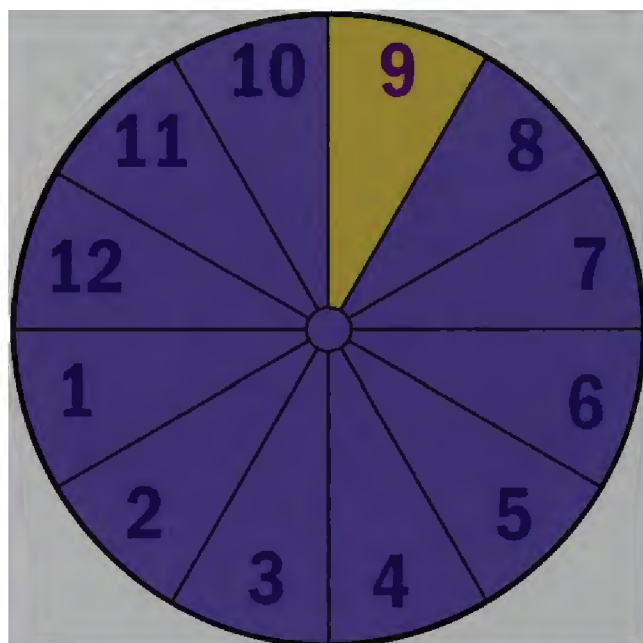
The inner and outer journeys that take you beyond the known, expanding your worldview

As the wheel turns, the deep communion of the 8th House is flung into the great wide open. This is the house of long journeys, especially quests for wisdom, truth, or self-knowledge. Its concerns are learning and visions, and the kind of education that's experiential. The sages of the ages are found here, the threads of inspiration to which you turn to make sense of

life. This is the realm of higher education, where knowledge is passed down, as well as the fields of law, religion, publishing, and the airline industry.

It's the house of ethics, whether they reflect the highest of humanity or the lowest common denominator. There is movement and a passion for free expression, and the mood

## 9th House



- The polarity is the 3rd House, where information churns in a kaleidoscope of shifting fragments.
- What's sought in the 9th House is the wisdom of the ages, as part of the evolving human story.

Planets in the 8th House,

near the 9th House cusp, add a fascination with rituals of life and death, the occult, or human extremes to your vision quest.

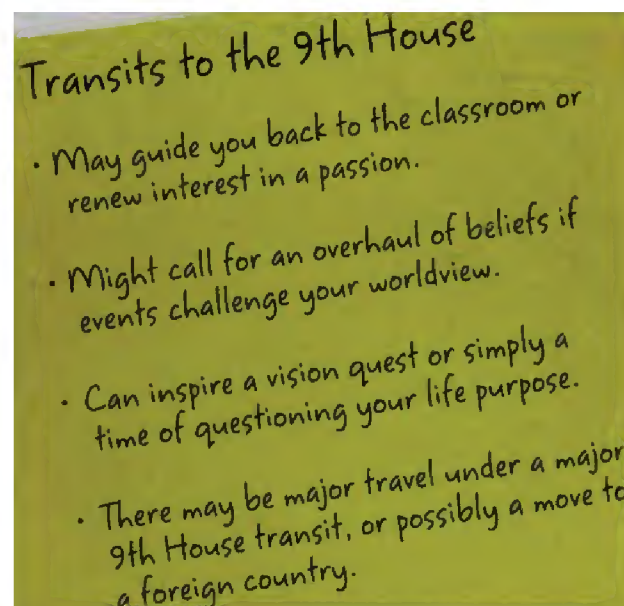
Planets in the 10th House, near the 9th House cusp, bring fame or public notoriety as a seeker, teacher, or wise one.

here shows your appetite for spontaneous adventuring. The natural sign of the 9th House is Sagittarius, and the natural ruler, Jupiter. Here you encounter the Archer's fiery arrows of truth, a sense of knowing that encompasses mind and intuition but is somehow beyond them. It shows how you connect the dots to find a larger philosophical perspective. It's the way you take in information, and whether or not that expands your awareness.

This house knows no set boundaries and shows your willingness to meet distant neighbors as friends. The world of

### *Traveler*

global travel, especially to remote and exotic places, is here. It's a guide to your enthusiasm for experiencing cultures very different from your own, and to your ability to be changed by encounters with the wider world or what you're studying. Here you'll find just how allies and lucky breaks arrive: as signs that you're on the right path. This house determines how faith is restored and in what life arena fortune seems to smile down from the heavens.



- The wanderlust of the 9th House leads to active travel, and possibly to stints as a tour guide, pilot, or international hostel-hopper.
- A strong 9th House jet-tisons you far from home, perhaps to live as an ex-pat with friends from many nations.
- It points to your capacity to trust life and move beyond your own culture to soak up global color.
- This house shows your affinity for animals (especially horses and dogs) as travel partners and friends.

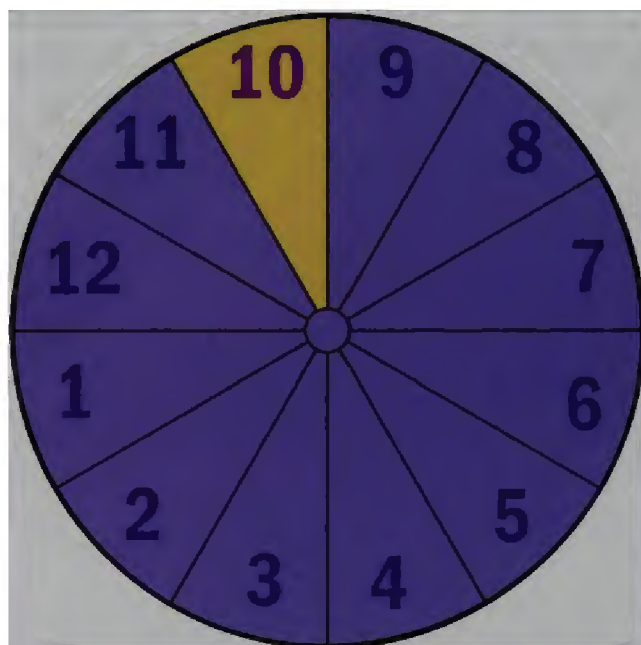
# 10TH HOUSE

To reach the peak and ever after wear the cloak of achievement and earned honors

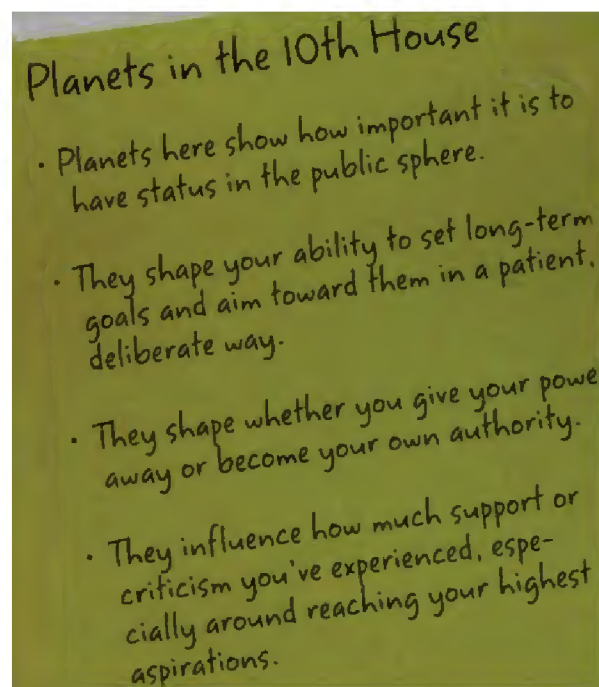
This is the house of the career and achievement over a course of a lifetime. That's why it's considered the realm of lifework and personal ambitions that make a lasting impact on society. Its natural sign is Capricorn, and its natural ruler, Saturn. This house shows your capacity to reach for the brass ring, which so often comes from slow, steady progress. It's

the path of building on what you know, and drawing on the best of the past. Mentors and bosses are found here, and any tough-love advisers who told you what it took to be successful. Of course, parents share your big dreams (or not!) and encourage you to heed that inner call, or are themselves the resistance that teaches you to persevere.

## 10th House



- The polarity is the 4th House of home and family inheritance; the 10th involves the public realm and traditions of society.
- While the 4th is traditionally the house of Mother, the 10th belongs to Father, and those in the role of authority.
- Planets in the 9th House, near the 10th House cusp can lead to status as a holder of knowledge.
- Planets in the 11th House, near the 10th House cusp, give you the ability to lead and inspire groups.





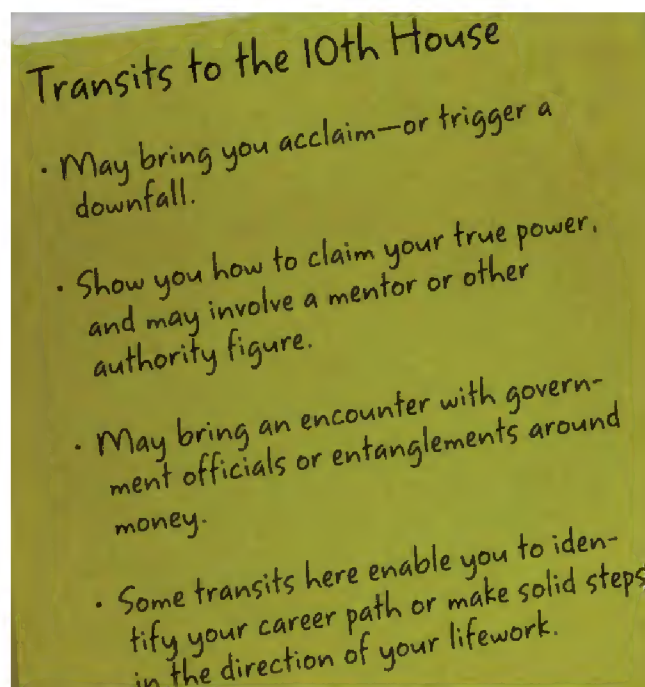
All authority figures are found here, and they dominate the scene until you find your own personal authority. Struggles to make a name or pursue your real interests are efforts to align with the potential of your 10th House. Leaving an enduring legacy signals true fulfillment of this most challenging house. The deep personal confidence that is created by real achievement earns you respect. And often it brings material rewards through wealth or social status.

This house shows how you step into maturity and claim your place as a pillar of society. It's a house concerned with

### *Authority*

- The 10th House is where you have an intense drive to make the most of your talents, resources, and family legacy.
- It's the house of appearances, where your version of the signs of status is on display.
- It's here you get an inner call, a deep sense of purpose or mission that can be achieved through your career.
- This path to 10th House fulfillment is steep and full of sacrifices, but it's where success settles into your being.

appearances and the status quo, but the atmosphere of this house brings its own style and attitudes to the public stage. There's a community aspect to what you achieved, whether local, national, or even global. The hardest-won achievements satisfy the need to prove yourself. After reaching the pinnacle, there comes a deep calm, since those who know the most say the least. This house guides you over time to that sense of mastery.





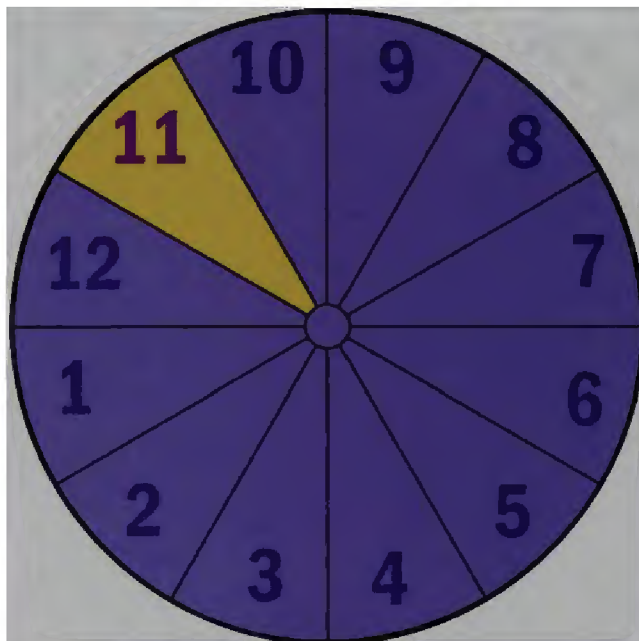
# 11TH HOUSE

Where your dreams merge with those of the collective, and great leaps are possible

This is where like minds come together for sustained effort. It's the house of cliques, groups, professional networks, clubs, and the collective human race. Its natural sign is Aquarius, and its natural rule, Uranus. In this house the outlook is toward "all of us"—yet each person's autonomy is respected. It reveals what kinds of social circles you create, whether you're a joiner

or not, and how many friends you collect via online networks. The collaborations that take place here are propelled forward by the power of the group. What's sparked here is like a mental matrix whose power is palpable. It's where the 100th Monkey shows up; after one person has a breakthrough idea, it simultaneously pops into collective awareness, even across

## 11th House

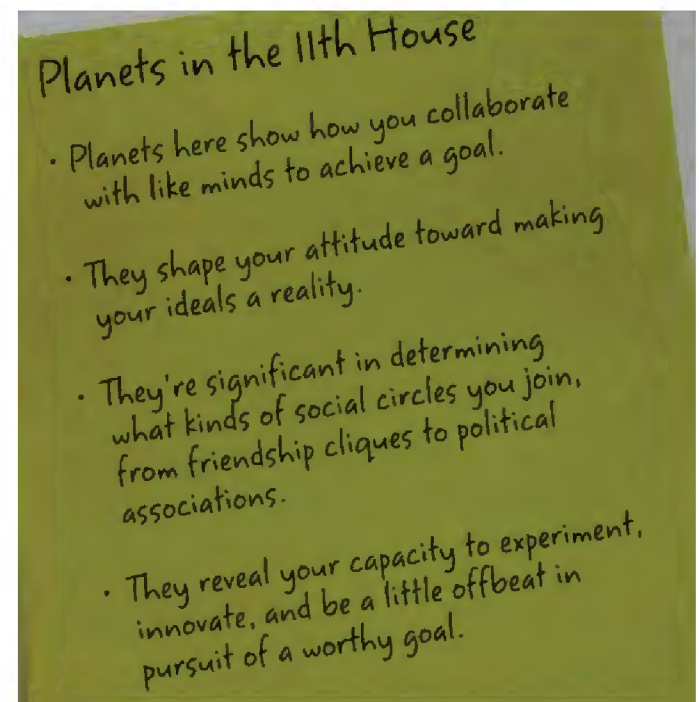


- The polarity—the 5th House of Personal Self-Expression—turns creativity into a collaborative act.

The sign on the cusp of this house shows your friendship style and what kinds of group activities you're drawn to.

- Planets in the 10th House, near the 11th House cusp, bring fame through an ability to sway the masses.

- Planets in the 12th House, near the 11th House cusp, tune you in to the undercurrent of the collective.

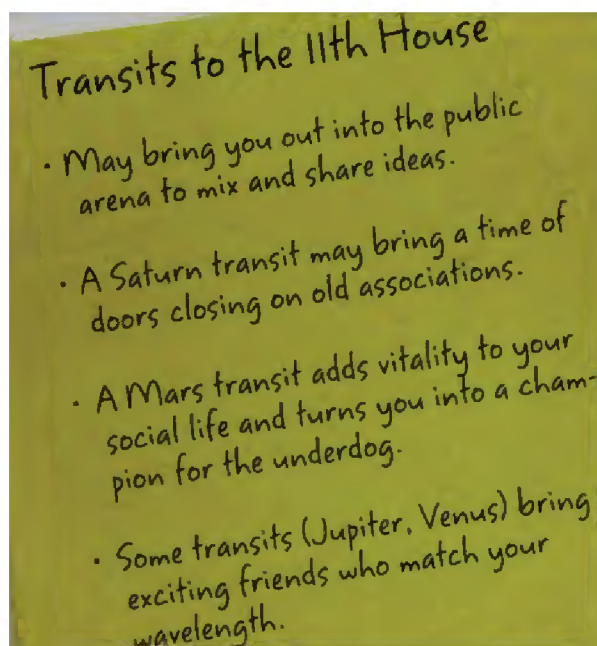


great distances. This involves currents that connect us, seemingly via some invisible channel.

The 11th House is a keeper of the mysteries around how we're linked and how human evolution suddenly surges forward. The spirit of revolution is here, as are the desire for liberation from the status quo and the ability to experiment with what's possible. It's the realm of subtle energies, like the energy body, planetary energies, and even thought as a form of energy. It shows your potential to tune in to synchronicity, pick up on "vibes," and try telepathic communication. A

### *Networking*

key here is group dynamics. A strong 11th House makes for a great community organizer, educator, or public presence. What's here is the potential to think for the whole and make decisions with that special sight. This is a house with a different concept of time, with the future a source of fascination as something within reach. Here's where you are experimental, visioning ahead to see what innovations will work in the here and now.



- This house reveals how you form extended networks, as well as your attitude toward staying connected.
- In this house you find your clique and explore shared passions.
- Here you merge your singular mind with the vast human field of thought.
- It shows how you engage with all of humanity and work toward causes for the common good.

# 12TH HOUSE

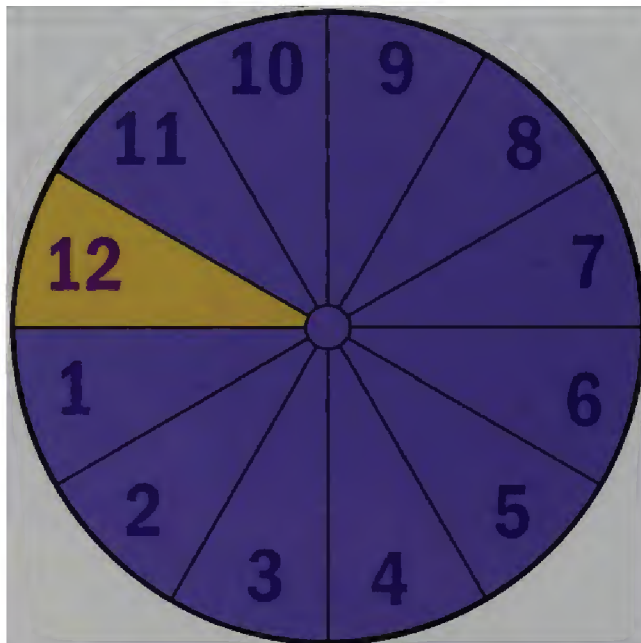
Merge with the oceanic dreams of the universe and learn to sink or swim

The last house is your personal gateway to the collective heart, where unresolved soul karma is handled. It wraps up the journey around the wheel before the cresting into the First House. It's the Dark Moon of the chart, and you dwell in the vast interior within. Its typical domains are confined or solitary places, like monasteries, prisons, and rehab. Its

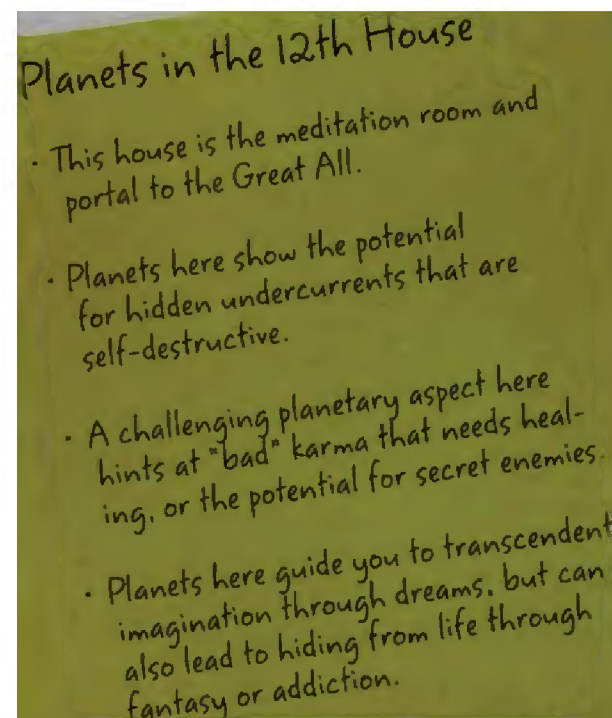
natural sign is Pisces, and its natural ruler, Neptune.

It's the house of dissolving into the divine, merging with the Great All, and it's associated with a longing to grow closer to spirit. Its yearnings can take you into mysticism, and is the realm of the collective dreams of the world. The pull of this undertow, if met unconsciously, can lead to escapism

## 12th House



- The polarity is the 6th House. Both lead you to self-sacrifice, either in a destructive way or as the path to a spiritual ideal.
- Planets in the 11th House, near the 12th House cusp, lead you to sharing your deepest self as part of a collective journey.
- It's suggestive of the Dark Moon phase, a time of retreat and the pursuit of soul resolution.
- Planets in the 1st House, near the 12th House cusp, are barely submerged aspects of your persona.



through drug abuse and self-sabotage. It's known as the house of undoing, because its force is often beyond our daily awareness, leading us into all manner of traps and delusions. These good intentions can pave the road to hell, because we are blind to their dangers.

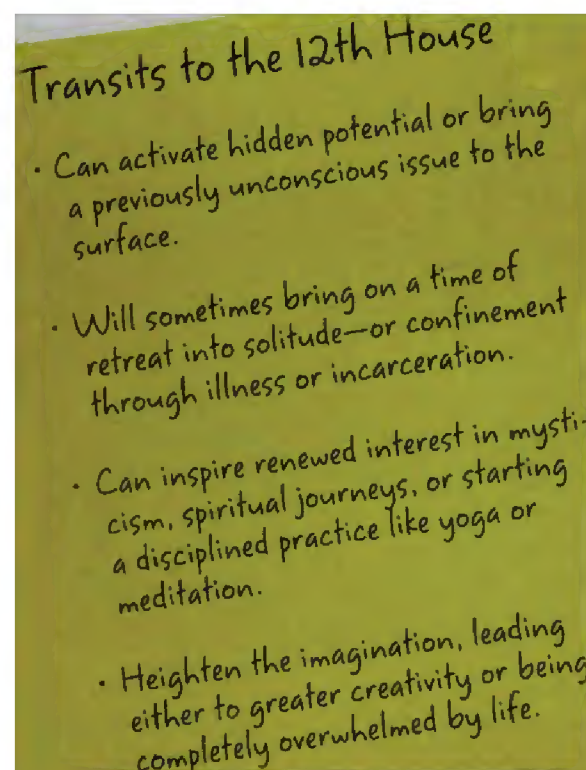
The 12th House includes what's secret or veiled, our own black hole out of which we can find the forces of both creativity and destruction. The wisdom found here comes from deep introspection and a willingness to face personal demons. Its gifts come when you're confident that you can

### *Divine Union*

- This house seems more overtly karmic than others. Here old wounds and disillusionments lie, and require spiritual help to heal.
- Spiritual practices such as meditation and yoga are tools to reach those deeper currents, and are preoccupations of this House.
- It's the house where all humans, even at their most pathetic or blindly destructive, are seen as expressions of the changing face of the divine.
- This House shows your capacity for compassion and awareness that we're all droplets in the same ocean.

meet what's there and remain standing.

A prominent 12th House can bring a lifetime as a "lost soul"—or transcendence. Often it's those who have nearly drowned in the turbulent ocean of consciousness that have teachings for the rest of us. This house deals in symbols, dream images, and music, and everyone can find material for their inner artist here. Its theme is the human reality that we must sometimes go to the lowest depths to reach the celestial heights.



# ELEMENT & QUALITY

## Clues to a zodiac sign's essence and how it moves

One pathway to understanding how astrology works is through the elements. There are striking differences in the zodiac signs based on the elements of fire, water, air, or earth. Elements go a long way toward explaining why we either have chemistry with others or immediately sense friction.

It's always a good idea to start with your own birth chart, since you'll likely see that dance of elements within yourself.

### *The Elements*

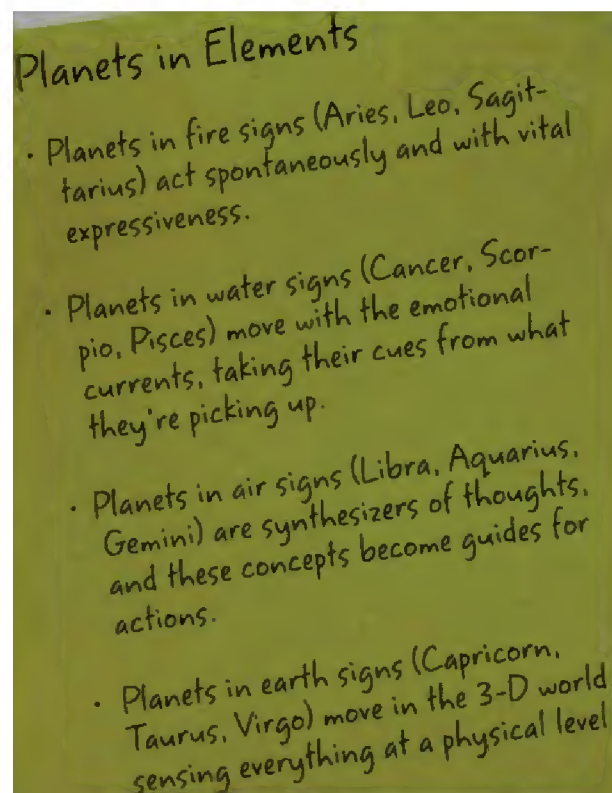
- Each of the four elements—fire, water, air, and earth—has a certain essence or temperament.

Each of the zodiac signs in a particular element moves in a different way as it falls in the category of cardinal, fixed, or mutable.

- The blend of elements in your chart is the energetic chemistry of your makeup.
- The blend of qualities in your chart shows how you manage those energetic currents.

Many chart generators have an element box, but you can also determine them by their zodiac sign. Are your planets in a dominant element? Or perhaps you've got a blend of two or three, or maybe a well-rounded mix of all four. Your elemental makeup is a key source for overall chart themes.

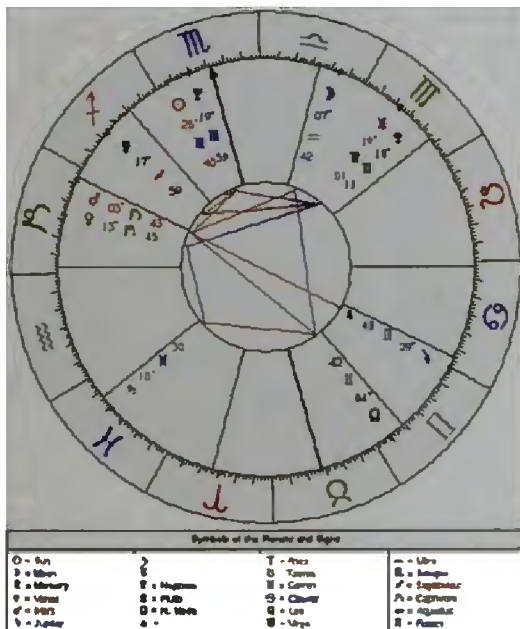
It's eye-opening to see that your Sun is in ephemeral watery Pisces, but your Mercury is in detached airy Aquarius. Once





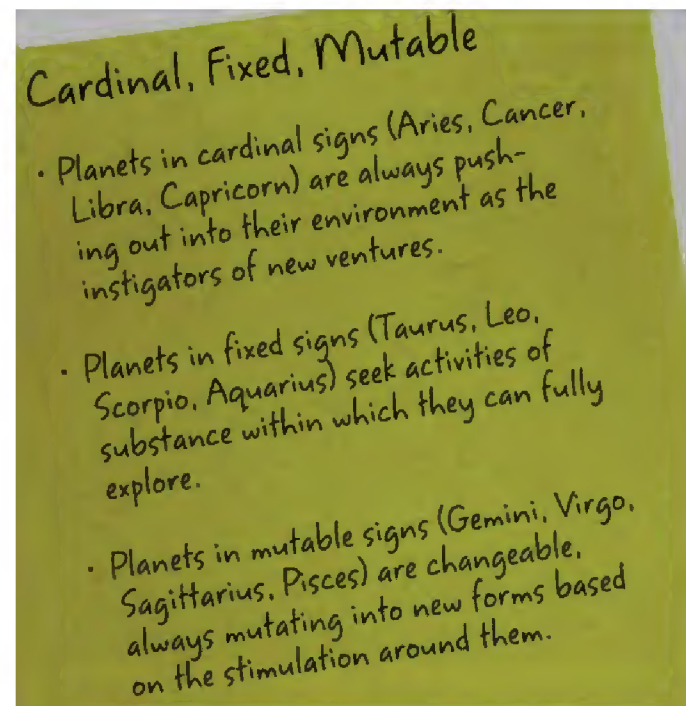
you know the elemental nature of your planets, you'll start to understand how they harmonize (or not). The major element in your chart is usually the mode you're strongest in. The tensions between two signs in different elements will show a need to learn, through trial and error, exactly how to master those planetary energies.

### Element Box



- Many chart generators feature a breakdown of the planets in their elements at the bottom.
- This grid shows both the element and the quality of a planet, represented by its glyph.
- The abbreviations for the elements along the left from top to bottom are fire (F), air (A), earth (E), and water (W).
- The abbreviations for the qualities across the top from left to right are cardinal (C), fixed (F), and mutable (M).

Find another big-picture chart theme by looking at qualities. If you're dominant in one quality, this tells you how you move in the world. Put that together with the element to see your chart themes come into focus in broad strokes. For example, someone with many planets in Capricorn and Scorpio has a mix of earth-water and cardinal-fixed energies.





# PLANET DYNAMICS

The energy patterns of the cosmic bodies are a key to the personal universe within

When first learning about your chart, keep it simple. Start with the Sun, which you surely are already familiar with from popular horoscopes. When you find your Sun on the chart, its house position tells you which sphere of life is hot, on fire—in other words, a major life focus. After that you can begin adding planets in their signs and houses to your interpretive repertoire.

## *The Zodiac*

- The 12 pieces of sky with the constellations of the zodiac are an electromagnetic field wrapped around the Earth.

Astrology's premise is that these expressions of light (the zodiac) color the planets and alter the Sun's and Moon's beams

- The zodiac and planets embody archetypal energies; this makes them timeless symbols of points in the human evolutionary journey.

By engaging with these forces, you alter your energetic makeup on the way to becoming enlightened.

In the beginning you will have more questions than answers. But much of what you read will confirm what you already know about yourself, too. Trust your own intuition as you build on your Sun sign and its known traits. Consider how your Ascendant is the loose outer shell for the Sun's radiant core.

## *Cosmic Mysteries*

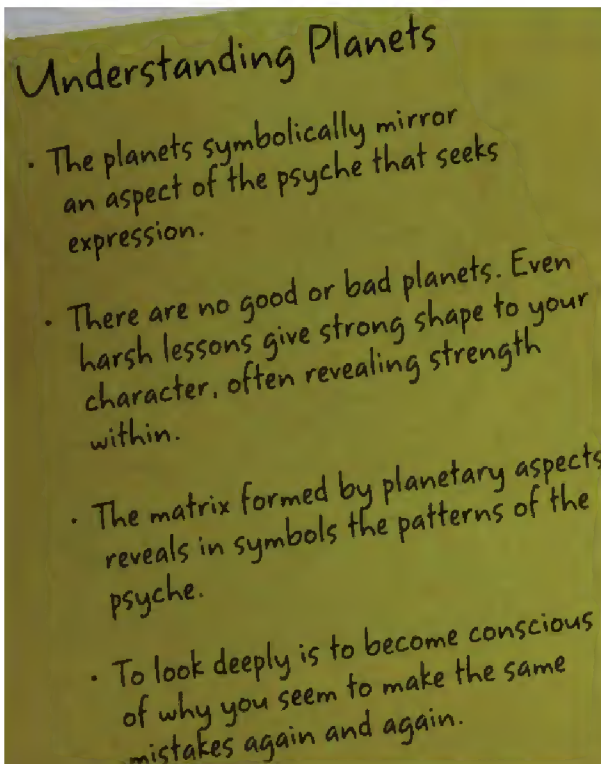
- The birth chart is a tool of self-knowledge that helps you "see" unconscious patterns.
- At different times in your life, transits to a planet will bring new awareness to the foreground.
- There can be phases when lots of Gemini people (for instance) pass through your life, with lessons related to that sign.
- The energies of the zodiac are "out there," but they're also within; this bridge to the cosmos can be a source of wonder.

Then add the Moon as the house and sign of the interior landscape of the emotions and soul. The initial interpretation of the Big Three—Sun, Moon, and rising sign—can be an anchor as you add other planets. Certain life transitions, like the Saturn return of the late twenties, bring lessons into the forefront. The longer orbits of the outer planets show themes of your generation, but also have a big role to play depending on where they fall in your chart.

## MAKE IT EASY

Astrology is an intuitive art, and like any faculty it grows stronger the more you use it. It requires thinking in terms of energy. The energy lines and grids in place at your birth are the matrix for the “vehicle” that’s you. It takes time to see yourself this way, but astrology is a tool that gets you there.

### *Alchemy*



- Alchemists worked with ritual and chemistry to chart the most auspicious times to work with certain metals.
- Astrology reveals a sacred order in your life, with many initiations that lead you toward your highest potential.
- As they sought to turn metal into gold, they also sought to purify heavy places within the energetic body.
- To engage with these energies is to become an alchemist of the soul; it involves working with the cosmos as a co-creator.

# A LOOK AT ASPECTS

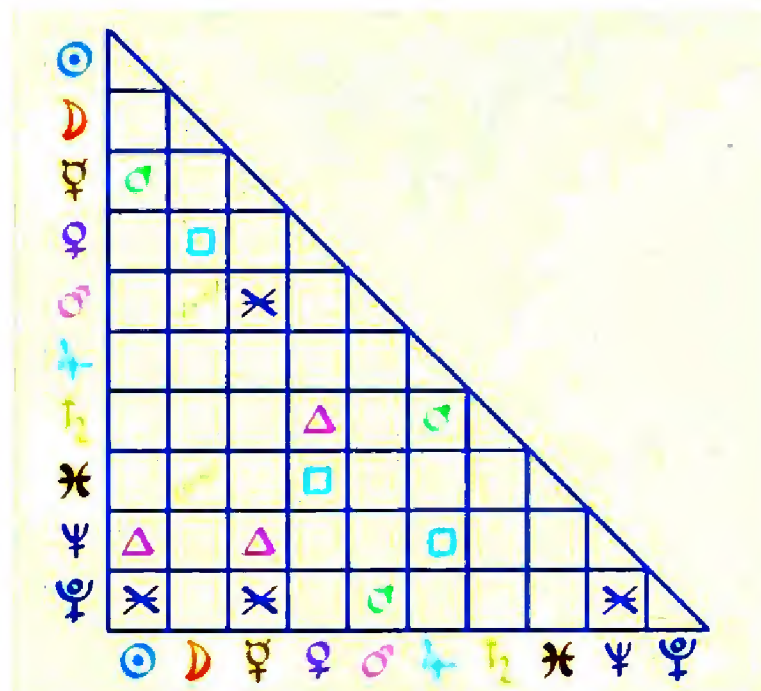
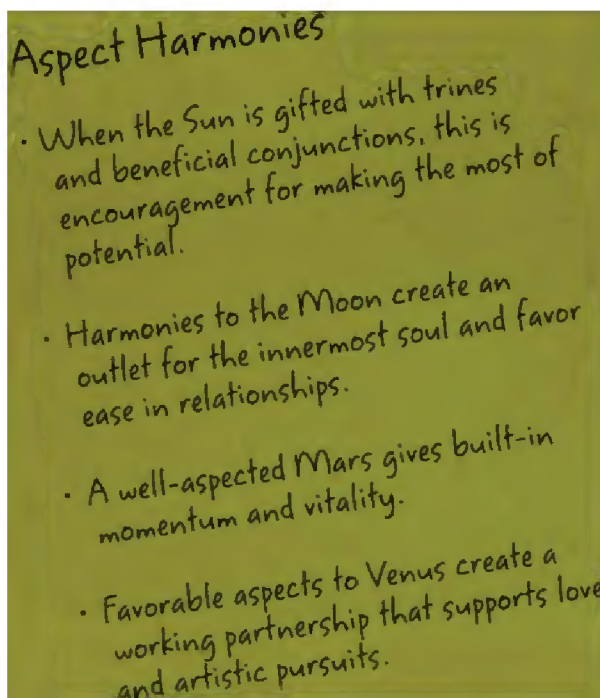
The angles that form between planets reveal built-in stress points or flow

Once you've looked at the basic dynamics of your planets in their houses, you'll want to see how they engage with one another. Each aspect emits either the sparks of tension or the gifts of a harmonious flow. The conjunction of two planets in a sign means they are united to act as a pair.

When many planets are together in close orb, that's called

a stellium or cluster. If you find a stellium in your chart, it points to a major chart theme, based on its sign and house. An opposition means planets are in directly opposite signs. This gives your chart themes based on that polar axis, and signals a need to balance the two. If all your planets are in Aries and Libra, for example, your chart theme is the Aries-

## Meryl Streep's Aspect Box



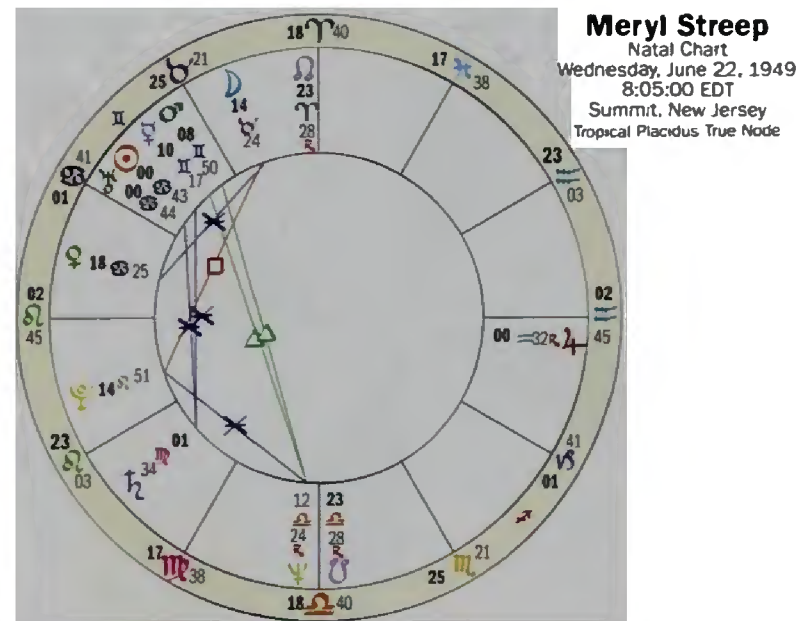
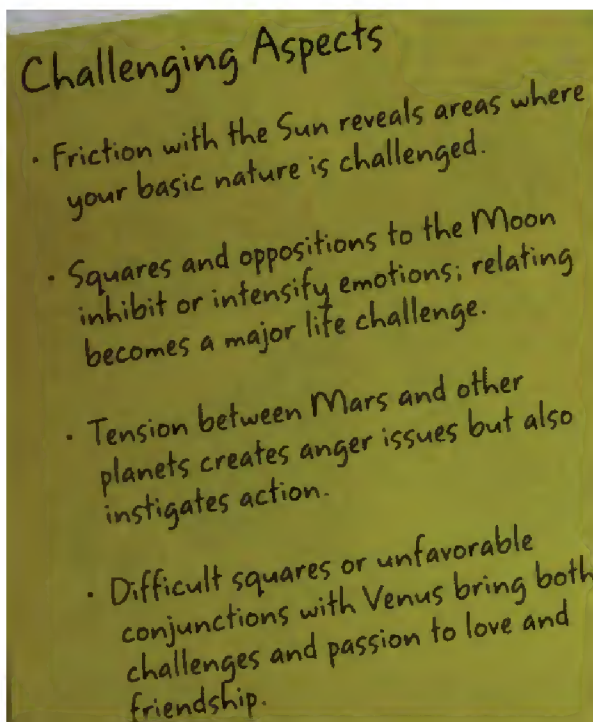
- Meryl Streep's Mercury and Mars are conjunct in Gemini, adding force to her mercurial ability and putting the fire of the red planet in her voice.
- The grid shows a square between the Moon (emotional base) and Pluto (urge to transform).
- The triangles show that Mars-Mercury harmonizes with illusion-maker Neptune, an ideal placement for a shapeshifting actress.
- There are four sextiles, which are subtle harmonies that enhance the flow between two planets.

Libra polarity, which is all about balancing Self with Other.

The squares in your chart are life lessons that just won't go away. Two planets in tension can lead to awkward expressions of both until you learn to manage and direct that force. For example, if your Mercury squares your Mars, you're likely to act before you think things through. You can blurt things out in a provocative way that puts others on the defensive. Ideally, as you learn from your mistakes, you'll find ways to shape this into a dynamic speaking style. Thus even the so-called hard aspects offer an opportunity for growth.

Some aspects dog us throughout our life and, on the bright side, can be called lifelong meditations. In astrology the energy created by aspects doesn't set the life path in stone. But by learning to see astrological patterns, you become more aware of how best to manage these cosmic forces.

### Meryl Streep's Chart



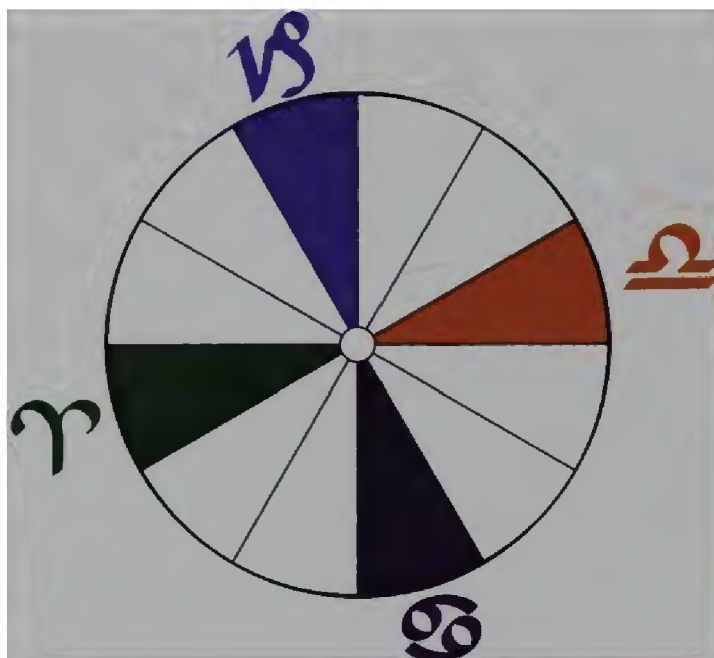
- The intense square between her Pluto in Leo and the Moon in Taurus helps her express a character through physicality.
- Her early-degree Cancer Sun conjuncts awakener Uranus; her roles as "mother" can be shocking, taboo, or enlightening.
- Her archetypal "Mother" Cancer Sun is supported with a sextile by Saturn in wholesome Virgo; this is reflected in her environmental activism.
- Her Venus in Cancer harmonizes with her Mars in Taurus; she keeps her married life private.

# CHART THEMES

There are many layers to the birth chart, each adding dimension to what you know

Your birth chart offers, in symbolic form, messages about your nature, relationship needs, potential, and life purpose. It's an evolving map, because as you change, so does your perspective of what these cosmic forces mean. You can learn to interpret your own chart, but it's also interesting to see what others pick up.

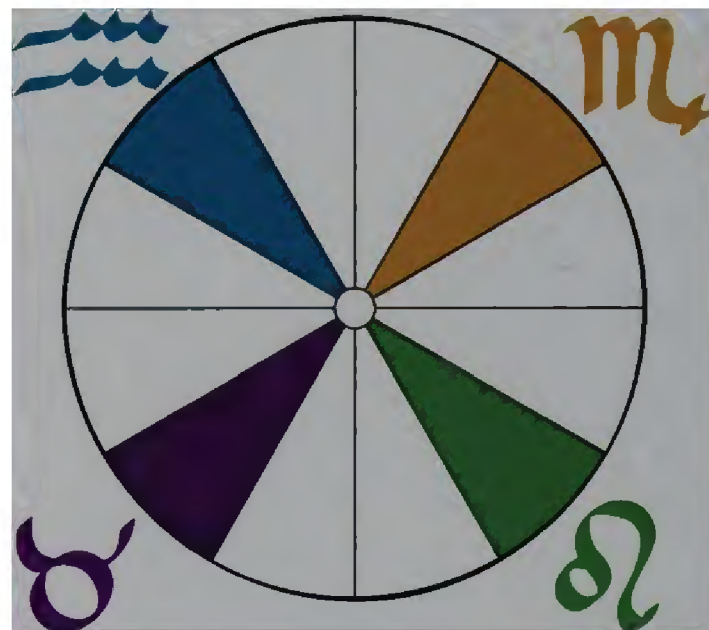
## *Angular Houses*



- The angular houses in a birth chart are houses 1, 4, 7, and 10.
- The cusps of the angular houses show the directional orientation of the chart; in the natural chart they correspond to Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn.
- These houses define you as an "actor" in your environment.
- The planets in angular houses give you an ambitious edge as a natural leader and doer.

Often we're the last to see ourselves clearly! Begin to look for basic character traits with the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, and planets in the 1st House of Identity. The anchoring themes of the overall chart can be found in major aspect patterns, the elements and qualities in play, and the chart ruler. The resonance of your emotional life is found by examining the Moon

## *Succedent Houses*



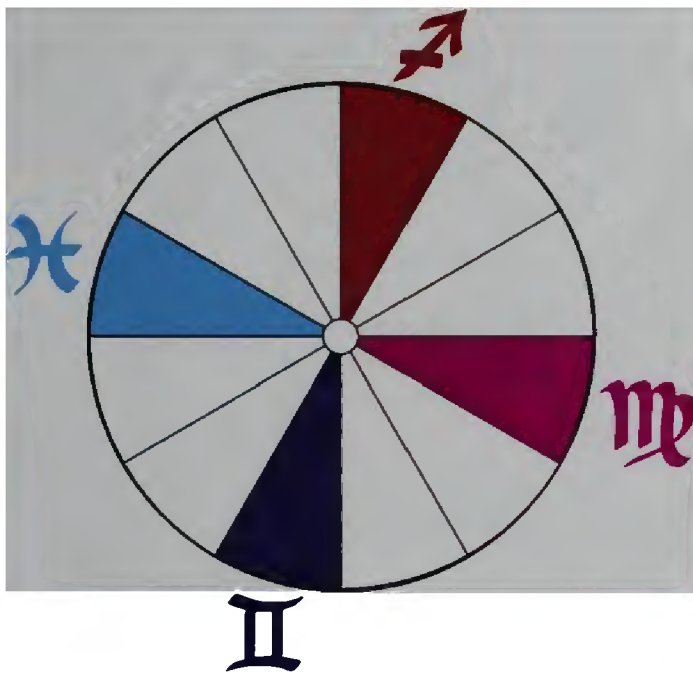
- The succedent houses in a birth chart are houses 2, 5, 8, and 11.
- They are the natural houses of Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius.
- These are the resource houses where you build stability through sustained effort over time.
- The planets in succedent houses grow deep roots in an area; achievement is substantial and lasting.



and Venus, especially looking at any aspects there. Another way to find themes is to look at how planets are grouped. Do they mostly fall in the top half of the chart, indicating a life lived in the open? Or perhaps you've got a stellium in the 6th House and a more reserved, private nature.

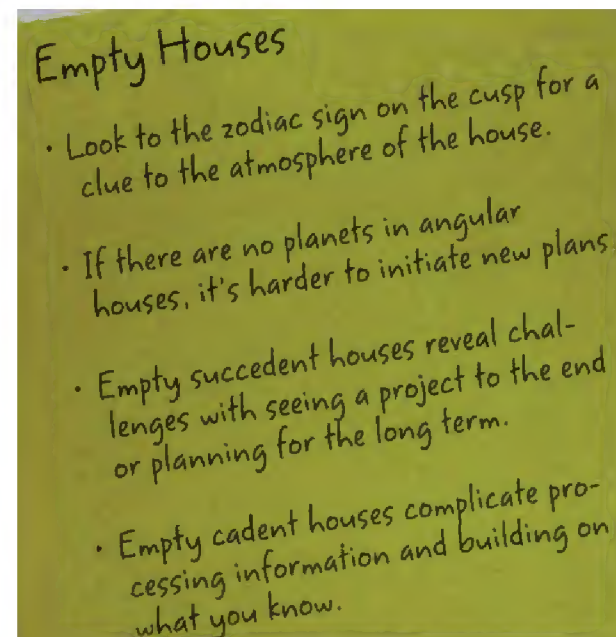
Take note of your themes and let them sift through your intuitive mind. Start with simple associations, and stay flexible so that you can integrate new insights into what you already know.

### Cadent Houses



- The cadent houses in a birth chart are houses 3, 6, 9, and 12.
- They are the natural houses of Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces
- These houses are where there's dynamic change, fluidity of experience, and much collecting, analyzing, refining, and dispersing.
- As the prelude to the next house (angular), the cadent houses are the gathering stage before the next big step.

When you're first interpreting your chart, it may seem that it's full of conflicting information. Each planet in its sign and house is one piece of a complex puzzle. Be curious about these pieces as you relate them to your real life. The deeper meaning of an aspect, or a planet's expression, may not be revealed until you've lived it.



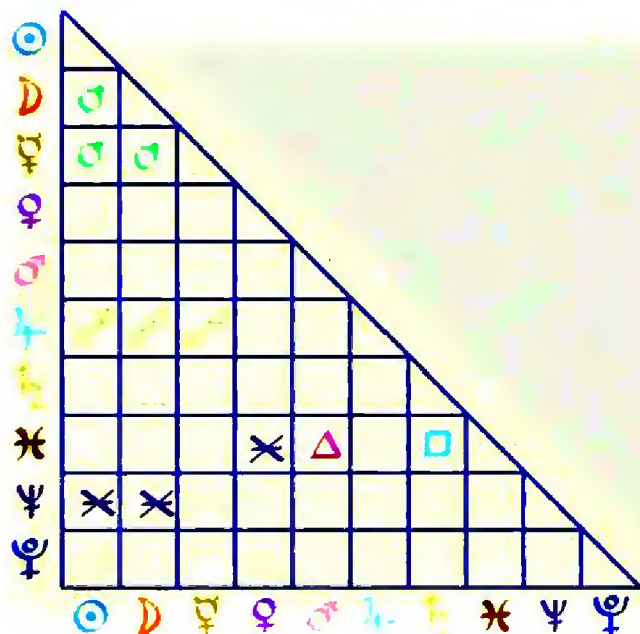


# CHART EXAMPLE

Famous “stars” show the contradictory energies that make us the complex people we are

The birth chart of actress Kate Winslet reflects her ambition and rare Libra ability to live in two worlds, balancing career and family. Using this birth time, her “big three”—Sun, Moon, and Ascendant—are all in the sign of Libra. Her grace and sophisticated style make her a classic English rose, and her ability to shine in period pieces earned her the nickname

## Kate Winslet's Aspect Box

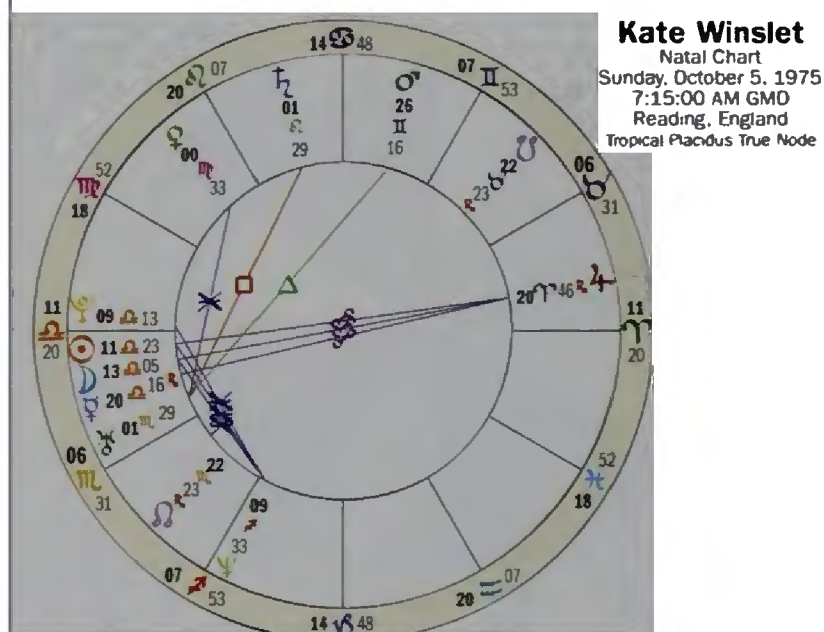


- Winslet's chart is packed with conjunctions. These combine the energy of a planet in its sign so they function as one superplanet
- The fifth row from the bottom shows three oppositions with Jupiter in Aries to those three planets in Libra.
- She has one square (tension) between Uranus and Saturn.
- There is a trine (harmony) between her Mars and Uranus.

Corset Kate. She's brightly lit, with a powerful intellect to match, with Mercury also in Libra. This heightens her gifts for playing off others as an actress, as well as giving her enormous personal charisma.

There's nothing laid-back about this Libra, with intense Pluto in alignment to her Sun and a power stellium right at

## Kate Winslet's Chart



- Mars in Gemini makes Winslet high-strung, with a variety of interests and a sense of running in a million directions at once.
- Venus in Virgo, an earth sign, makes her a friend and mate who shows her love in thoughtful, practical ways.
- Her Neptune in Sagittarius is in harmony to her Sun-Moon-Mercury. She is a seeker on a vision quest.
- Her North Node in Scorpio is the path of knowing the depths of intimacy and exploring dark mysteries.

the front door. Her strengths as an actress are her persona and physicality, which is the arena of the 1st House. It's packed with dynamism in her chart, with Uranus in Scorpio the wild card that gives her an edge. She's drawn to playing disturbing characters that live out the dark fantasies of the psyche. Her first big role at 17 was as a schoolgirl killer in *Heavenly Creatures*.

Her Saturn in Leo enables her to hone her craft in a disciplined way, in tension with the need to take risks as an artist. A notable pattern is the Sun-Moon-Mercury opposition

### *Kate Winslet's Element/Qualities Box*

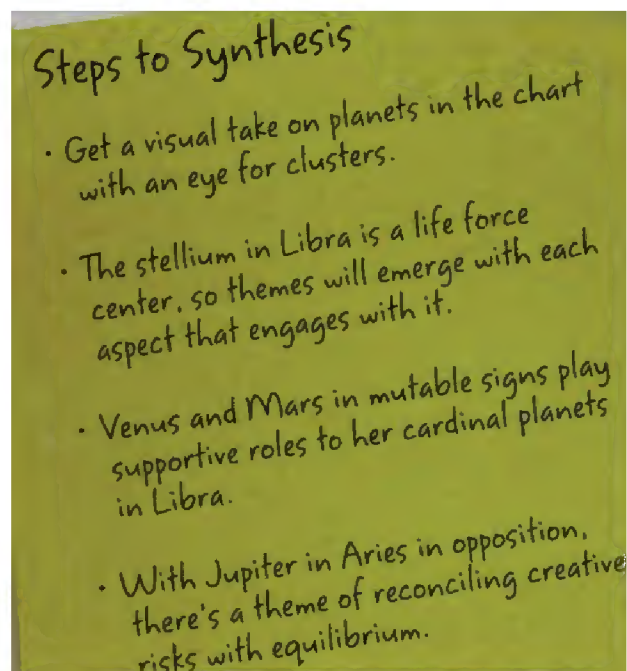
		C	F	M
F		♄♃	♁	♃
A		♁♂♃♂♂♂♂♂♂		♂
E				♀
W		MC	♃♂♂	

Across the top row (from left to right), we see one fire sign planet in each of the quality categories.

The next row down shows Winslet's many planets in the air element, this time in the qualities of cardinal and mutable.

- Her only earth sign planet is Venus in Virgo, which we find under the mutable column.
- The bottom row shows that her MC (Midheaven), Uranus, and North Node are in water signs.

to her Jupiter in Aries. This shows that even though she's a natural in pairs and loves harmony, she's got an independent streak to go it alone, be first, move beyond her comfort zone. The emphasis on cardinal signs in her chart shows that she's an initiator. Her predominant element is air, though she's got a mix of the four to make her well rounded.



# MERCURY: MYTH & MEANING

The Winged Messenger provokes change through our understanding of the world

The ancients saw Mercury as the mighty Sun's erratic, mischievous junior companion. Mercury is synonymous with the Greek god Hermes, creator of the alphabet, musical scales, astronomy, magic, and alchemy. Through the ages, the speediest planet in our solar system has earned its astrological reputation as a messenger of the gods who reigns over perception.

*Mercury/Hermes*

When the planet appears to speed up or slow down—the infamous Mercury retrograde—clarity or distortion results. Mercury is the magician who experiments with what's real and manifests through thoughts, dreams, and messages from divine sources. If we become too set in our ways, Mercury plays tricks, showing us that things are not always as

*Perception*

- Mercury holds the caduceus, a symbol of peace and healing powers.
- Known as the ruler of trade, Mercury often held a bag of coins in one hand. Some words, like merchant and commerce, are from the Latin root of *mercurius*.
- As Hermes, he wore a cap of invisibility, reflecting his catch-me-if-you-can quality and reputation as a master of illusion.
- Mercury synthesizes paradox and polarities, like male and female. As Hermes he is depicted as the "hermaphrodite."
- The glyph for Mercury represents the dimensions of the mind, with the circle (spirit), the cross (matter), and the crescent (soul).
- In everyday life, Mercury moves in the currents of news, gossip, short exchanges, e-mails, and surfing the Net.
- Mercury in its soulful dimension is the imagination, emotional impressions, instinctive reactions, and unconscious thoughts.
- The spirit channels of Mercury are the voice of the higher self, prophetic dreams, and direct communion with the divine.

they seem. A mercurial person has a quick mind that's always shuffling the pieces into new forms.

Those born under Mercury's influence are sharp, bright-eyed, curious, and more apt to skip across the surface of ideas than to probe deeply. It's the planet of thinking, study, belief, and how you form our worldview. Mercury's filter is the vision of your life, since so much of your life is shaped by your thoughts. In the birth chart natal Mercury shows how life's raw material is deciphered. There you find clues as to how this constantly evolving picture is shaped.

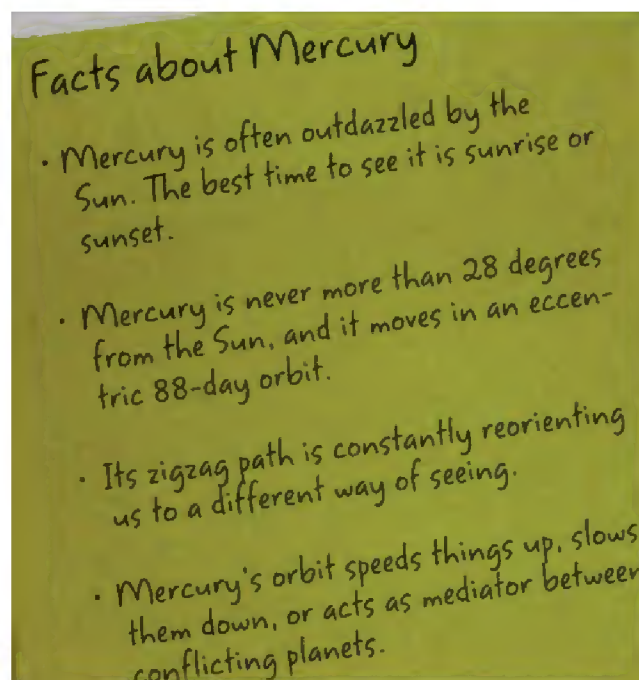
### *Mercury as Ruler*

- Gemini and Virgo are ruled by Mercury. Gemini embodies its quixotic mental agility, while Virgo applies its flexibility in practical ways.
- Mercury rules breath and the lungs, the nervous system, and hand gestures. Its impulses move through the body as impressions are

translated into thought.

- All its faces, from magus to god of crossroads, show its ability to find meaning in what's received.
- Mercurial people are witty, changeable, erudite, and highly verbal, often with a nervous temperament.

As a kind of go-between, Mercury brings together the different ways we perceive life. These are the dimensions of the material (the everyday), the soul (imagination, dream, memories) and the spirit (the higher self). Mercury's inspiration, for example, takes a vision or message from spirit and mixes it with practical planning to bring it to life in the real world.



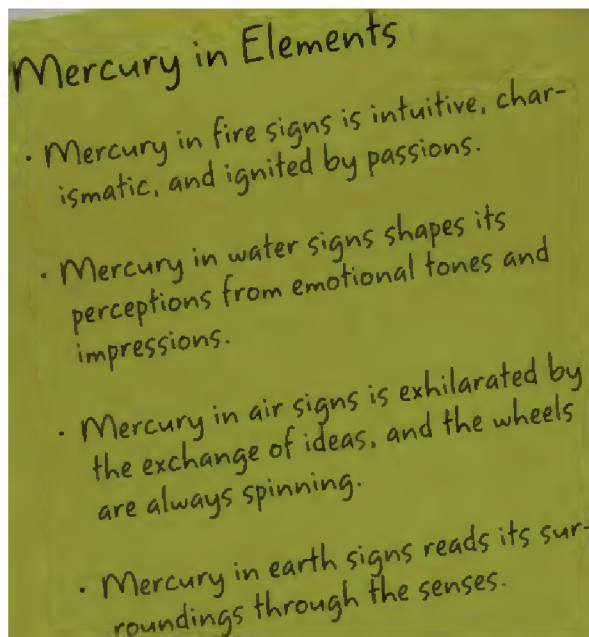
# PERCEPTIVE FILTERS

The unique personal computer that processes life's raw material

Mercury's many guises show why life looks so different to each person. Your eye is drawn to something that others miss. One person's impressions of the same experience are often different from another's. It's why we either have a good rapport, or are on totally different wavelengths. Mercury determines how well we work together to synthesize ideas as a group.

Clashes and easy collaborations have their roots in Mercury's styles. Understanding these differences can minimize frustrations when wires are crossed. It gives us a healthy awareness that there are many kinds of intelligence, each with particular gifts to share. Mercury's mind is playing with different media, depending on the element it's in. On a trip to an art museum, for example, the earth Mercury marvels at

*Windows of the Soul*



- As messenger of the Sun, Mercury helps reveal the essential nature of the self.
- Mercury is a receiver of impulses of both the nervous system and the mind.
- Alchemists saw that Mercury could bind itself to gold. In the same way, the mind (Mercury) lifts out the gold of the self by inspiring the search for meaning.
- Mercury is the observer's mind that allows you to see life from a higher, detached perspective.

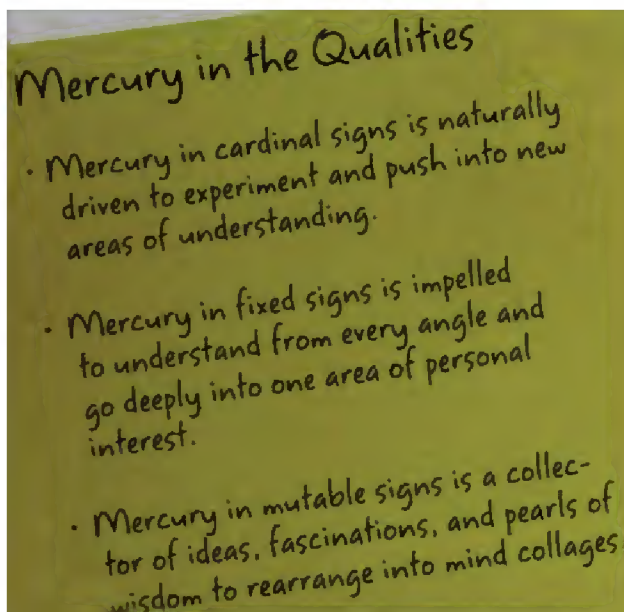


the building's architecture, admires the form of a painting, or notices a frame askew.

The air Mercury reads all the placards and is eager to discuss the concepts. The fire Mercury moves on impulse to the works that are most inspiring and kindle something within. The water Mercury stays near what has emotional resonance, and is sensitive to the moods of the other patrons. The element of Mercury is understood together with its quality. The fixed signs like to probe topics deeply, while mutable Mercury is about sampling.

You may be an instigator of new ideas as cardinal Mercury, while a fixed or mutable sign Mercury is better at refining what's already under way. Mercury transiting through the signs can bring clarity or fog; it inspires out-of-this-world brainstorming, or swampy confusion. Mercury's pace quickens or, as during retrograde, is overlapped onto itself. The velocity at the time of your birth determines whether you're direct or more circumspect when it comes to self-expression.

### *Doors of Perception*



- When Mercury spins on the dizzy overload of information, it crowds out the imagination and more intuitive ways of seeing.
- Mercury is both channel and tool, helping you share thoughts and impressions evoked from your whole self.
- When you hear the mercurial thoughts of friends, you can begin to see through their eyes.
- We understand others by sending messages via Mercury; its position in a birth chart determines how, when, or even if those messages are delivered.

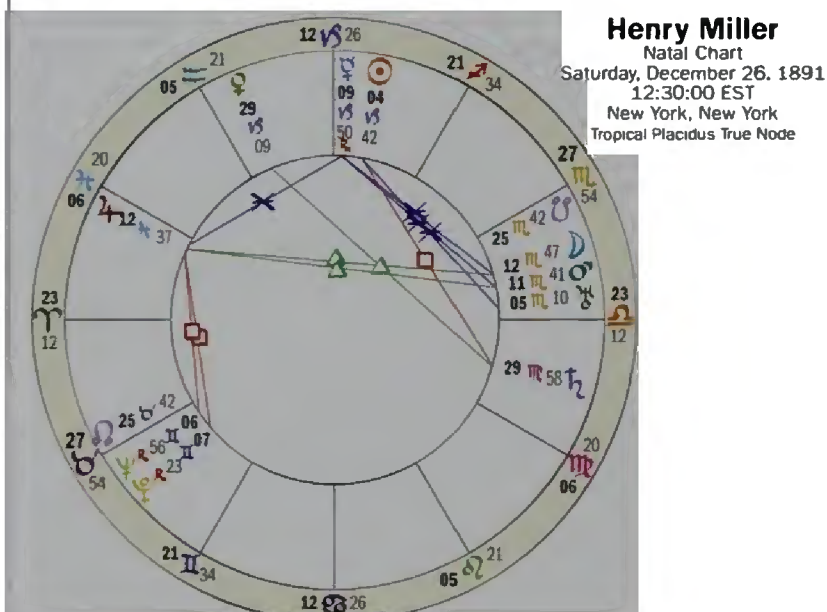


# IN THE BIRTH CHART

## Locating your perceptual doorway, and its engagement with other planets

Though it's seen as the Sun's little buddy, Mercury is a major cosmic player. As the ruler of perception, Mercury is there when we speak our first words. It rules schooling, siblings, and the extended family, since these are where we first bounce our ideas around. The ability to name the things around us and develop language for what we're experiencing is all

### *Henry Miller's Chart*



Mercury's doing. Its sign and quality, and its relationship to the Sun reveal its tendencies and how it's matched to your basic nature.

The Sun may be in fiery Aries, but if Mercury is in nearby Pisces, that impulsiveness is filtered through a poetic, compassionate lens. And the house where Mercury falls reveals

### *Contemplation*

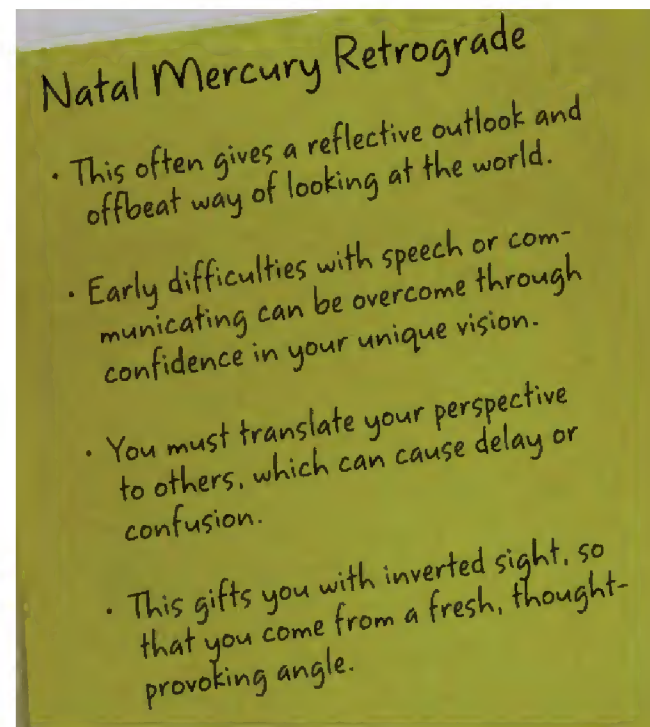
- Mercury travels close to the Sun, so it is in either the same sign as that body, or the one before or after it on the zodiacal wheel.
  - This sample chart shows writer Henry Miller's Sun and Mercury in the cardinal earth sign Capricorn.
  - The Sun-Moon conjunction is in the 9th House of Travel, Knowledge, and Truth Seeking.
  - Mercury is in retrograde in this chart, near the Midheaven, signifying a career as an introspective writer.
  - Mercury's synapses may fire best in a group situation, or reach clarity only after you spend time alone.
  - Look to the house position to see where your vision is centered and what kinds of activities draw your gaze.
  - The element shows the medium in which Mercury thinks best; Mercury in water signs, for example, thinks via emotions.
- A Mercury in conflict with the Sun has to work hard to express itself and be a true messenger of the basic nature (Sun).

what draws the eye of perception. The house position determines not only the mercurial atmosphere in which you shine, but also how you share what you know. For example, a 3rd House Mercury is chatty, casual, and eager to be in the social mix, while an 8th House Mercury guards its secrets to all but the most intimate few. Mercury is a synthesizer of energies, so its relationship to other planets in the chart will be a key guide.

## Voice

- If the way someone talks to you pushes your buttons, her Mercury may be squaring or opposing planets in your birth chart.
- When you're on a different wavelength, Mercury often reveals that it's to do with orientation. The sign's element is a big tip-off.
- A well-aspected Mercury lends a focused mind that's a clear messenger for the Sun and other planets.
- A challenged Mercury may seem to cloud the issues or disrupt intentions; squares and oppositions require overcoming problems with self-expression.

Mercury's reputation as messenger of the gods is seen in its harmonies and clashes with other planets. In the chart a square to Mars, for example, gives Mercury a short fuse and a tendency to blurt things out explosively. Each planet that Mercury touches in the chart is drawn into a lifelong exchange that has a big impact on how life experience is translated.

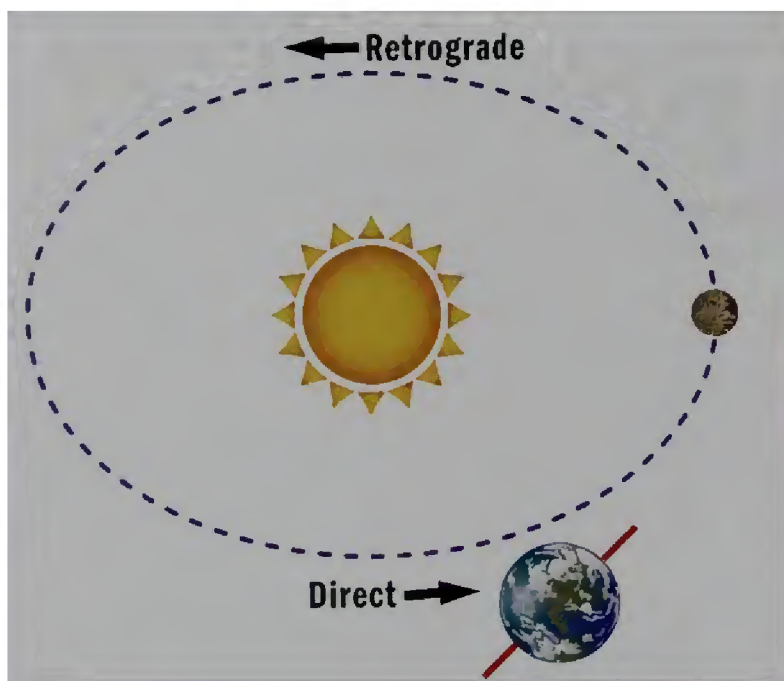


# MERCURY RETROGRADE

A time when linear thought is derailed, provoking new ways of seeing

When it looks like Mercury is moving backward through the zodiac, it's known as a retrograde period. It's a cosmic illusion in which the Trickster stays in our eye line while moving on the other side of the Sun. There's a point of stationing, where Mercury appears to come to a standstill. This is when the most dramatic revelations or events occur, ones that set

## *Mercury Retrograde*



Mercury goes into retrograde at least three times per year, often four. It lasts about three weeks.

The most powerful time, when much is revealed, is when Mercury appears to stand still, known as stationing.

- After Mercury goes direct, it covers old ground with new eyes; this is known as shadow direct.
- The true unraveling of what's been inverted happens at the "return," when Mercury comes to the degree at which it first started the retrograde cycle.

the stage for the entire retrograde cycle.

The zodiac sign of the retrograde will determine the themes up for review. In general, it is a time of reflection—viewing old ground through a different prism. Mercury's retrograde is widely known as a time of mixed signals and illusions, when a fog comes over the conscious mind. Often the usual ways of

## *Mind Bender*

- Mercury retrograde is a bit of rest and relaxation for the mind—a chance to step off the linear fast track.
- The distress of Mercury retrograde can be eased with a curious, go-with-the-flow attitude.
- Since it takes away the usual mental order, it challenges us to open up to new ways of seeing.
- The journey inward reveals more layers and dimension to a situation, and can trigger many illuminating aha moments.

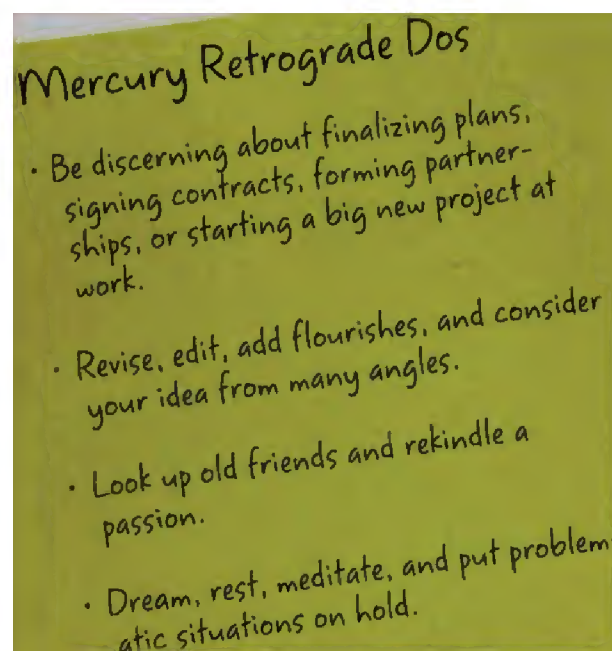
communicating are scuttled, resulting in computer glitches, misdials, lost mail, or astonishing misunderstandings.

Through this lens, it's easy to misread a situation entirely, or miss key details. That's why it is advisable to spend time on projects already in play, rather than initiating new ones. Many astrologers urge a rethinking of the retrograde as a time to rest the mind, and receive what's coming through interior channels.

### *Fated Events*

- A missing person or pet is found, or a child is reunited with her birth parent.
- You run into your ex on a deserted beach just as you were both reflecting on the relationship.
- A theme that fascinates you returns in a big way, and reminds you of that creative project that you'd like to bring to completion.
- You learn a secret about a family member or friend that changes the way you see yourself or someone else.

Mercury's retrograde is seen in astrology as a time of fated events. Things happen that seem orchestrated by a higher hand, especially to trigger a change of thinking. These mysterious detours off the track draw us back into situations from the past so that we may find resolution or a fuller version of the story.



# MERCURY IN REAL LIFE

The built-in translating device and the messenger that gives shape to dreams

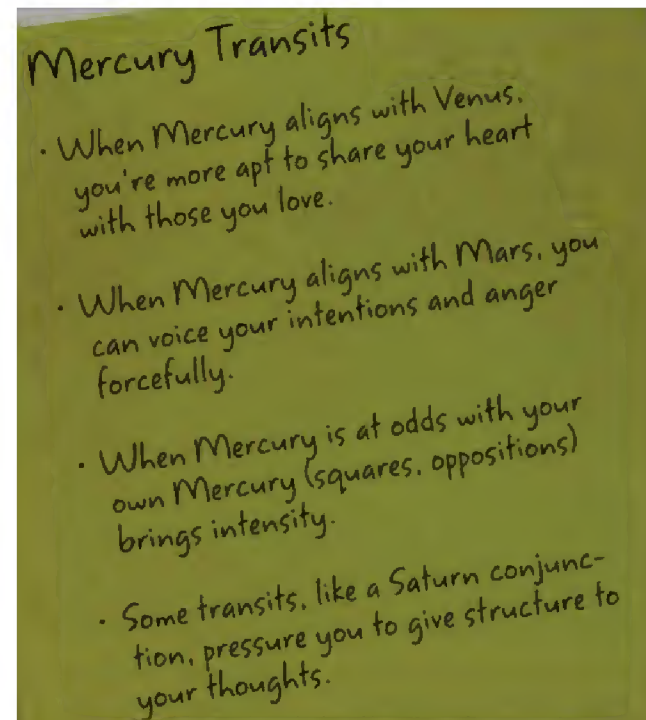
Mercury's many frequencies can be heard along the radio dial, by flipping through the TV channels, or by surfing the Net. In our world Mercury is on speed and out of bounds; we're drawn into random cell phone conversations of other people and inundated with "news" at the airport or bank. It takes concentrated effort to steer our Mercury toward higher

meaning and away from empty distractions. And only with some mental sovereignty can we hear past the racket of all that noise.

Mercury rules learning and thought, and owning your own mind is key to healthy self-development. It keeps you from falling prey to the scourge of mind control, from relentless

## *Mercury in Elements*

- Mercury in fire signs may find water sign Mercury to be evasive or a muddy thinker.
- Mercury in air signs is concept-oriented, which comes across to earth Mercury as not grounded in reality.
- Water Mercury adds emotional depth to fire Mercury's insights, while in reverse fire Mercury inspires a water-logged water Mercury.
- Air Mercury helps earth Mercury think outside the box; earth Mercury shows air Mercury how to put plans into tangible action.





marketing to the programs designed to shape mass perception. A well-rounded Mercury focuses on everyday life, but can reach deeper truths that come through in dreams or the imagination.

Mercury is the magician because it's the planet that helps us take a creative spark, flesh it out, plan the steps, and make it real. If thoughts are a form of energy, then the act of visualizing is the initial form of the dream. Mercury guides this experiment in manifestation in its particular style. Other planets transiting your natal Mercury can shake things up.

### *Group Dynamics*

- Under a fiery Mercury, inspired ideas bust out left and right, though the step-by-step planning is likely to come later.
- When Mercury is breezing through an air sign, there can be amazing brainstorming sessions at work.
- But if Mercury is retrograde in a water sign, it may feel as though everyone is wading through a swamp of heaviness.
- An earth sign Mercury helps a group plan strategy, see ideas realistically, and connect them to practical concerns.

## MAKE IT EASY

When two people talk, they are conveying their life experience through the conduit of Mercury. If it seems like you're speaking different languages, that's likely a clash of Mercury styles. It helps to take discord less personally. It may even guide you to learning from those who offer a useful perspective.

### *Meditation*

- The power of minds joined together in meditation is a frontier of spiritual growth.
- Each Mercury has a different way of staying clear. Fire signs prefer moving meditations or strategic mental competition like chess.
- Keeping the environment free from noise helps the air sign Mercury quiet a busy mind.
- Activities that calm the emotions restore balance to the water sign Mercury; doing a repetitive, productive task is meditative to the earth sign Mercury.

# VENUS: MYTH & MEANING

The alluring love goddess that guides us to our own brand of beauty

In ancient Greece she was Aphrodite, created out of the womb of the ocean, linking her to fertility. As Venus she rules romantic love, passion, artistry, friendship, and pleasure. When her grace is present, either in the natal chart or by a transit, we walk in beauty, living a charmed life and attracting many admirers.

Venus rules marriage and has clues about our own attitudes

*Venus: Aphrodite*

toward tying the knot. But the mythological goddess was swayed by her passions and had many affairs, notably with Mars, the lusty god of war. This shows her loyalty to love in all its forms, from traditional marriage to the breathless fling.

In astrology a conflicted natal Venus can be lured down a dangerous path. She acts as an attractor but has a dark side when love turns to hate. Sometimes love hurts, or is a power

*Goddess of Love*

- In myth Venus is the love goddess who was married, but couldn't resist her attraction to lusty Mars.
- Venus rules romance, pleasure, art and culture, and attitudes toward love and friendship.
- Since Venus is never more than 48 degrees from the Sun, your Venus sign will be in the same sign as your Sun or one nearby.
- A well-placed Venus is a bon vivant lucky in love, while challenging aspects can make it hard to simply enjoy life.
- Venus embodies desire, and the traits, style, and behaviors you find irresistible in the object of our affections.
- Venus animates our flirting style, and each sign plays the game of seduction differently.
- When Venus is in harmony, there's an instant attraction, but unless there are other resonances things may not get past the infatuation stage.
- The dark side of Venus is the "woman scorned," when love turns to jealousy or obsession.

struggle, or mutually destructive. On her bad hair days, when she is most disillusioned, Venus teaches how to risk opening the heart again and again. She romances us with what makes us fall in love, with ourselves and with life itself. In her most sublime guise, in Pisces, she shows the unconditional love that the Greeks called *agape*

### *Venus Rulership*

- Venus rules Libra and Taurus, and these signs show beauty's modes of expression, from the ephemeral to the physical.
- Venus is exalted in Pisces, where she embodies what the Greeks called *agape*, a kind of transcendent, unconditional love.
- Venus shows the manner in which you let love in, and her placement holds clues to when and how this happens.
- Venus embodies our love for life and the urge to create beauty reflecting those delights you're taking in.

The eye for what's pleasing and pleasurable makes Venus a fashion consultant, style guru, and inner artist. If you're a woman, your Venus shows the feminine ideal you value. If you're a man, she's a guide to what you look for in a woman. In all of us Venus is the anima, the feminine within that reaches out to nurture love and friendship.

### *Sharing Life*

- When transiting Venus is in fire signs, there's an exuberant atmosphere perfect for parties and spontaneous adventures.
- There's more social chatter when Venus transits in air signs. Mingling is raised to an art form.
- Transiting Venus in earth signs favors the sensual pleasures: dining together alfresco, massage, and skinny-dipping.
- In water signs Venus intensifies emotions and creates the atmosphere for intimacy—or outbursts.

# VENUS COMPATIBILITY

A key to relationship harmony or friction beyond the Sun sign

The love planet is responsible for what we know as relationship chemistry. When you're attracted to someone, that person is triggering a need in the psyche. Venus is the social icebreaker that gets those initial sparks flying. She is the eye candy that tempts us to take the love plunge. Often you're attracted to qualities you admire and want to cultivate in yourself.

## *Friends*

- When Venus is in harmony, you and your partner share the same idea of a good time.
- When there is harmony, a conflict between Venus signs makes something seem off or discordant.

Venus signs are seen in

what kinds of dates are suggested, whether lowbrow or high culture, a private rendezvous or crowded one, gourmet or fast food.

- Venus is the allure, and so determines how you (especially women) make yourselves attractive to the opposite sex.

After Venus lures us in, the factors that hold sway are the biggies like the Sun and Moon, whose needs must also be met in relationship. The Sun signs, or basic natures, have to mesh well for Venus (and Mars) to be invited in long-term. And the emotional needs of the Moon have a subtle say, too. But look to Venus for the kind of love trappings and atmosphere you crave. She rules how you enhance

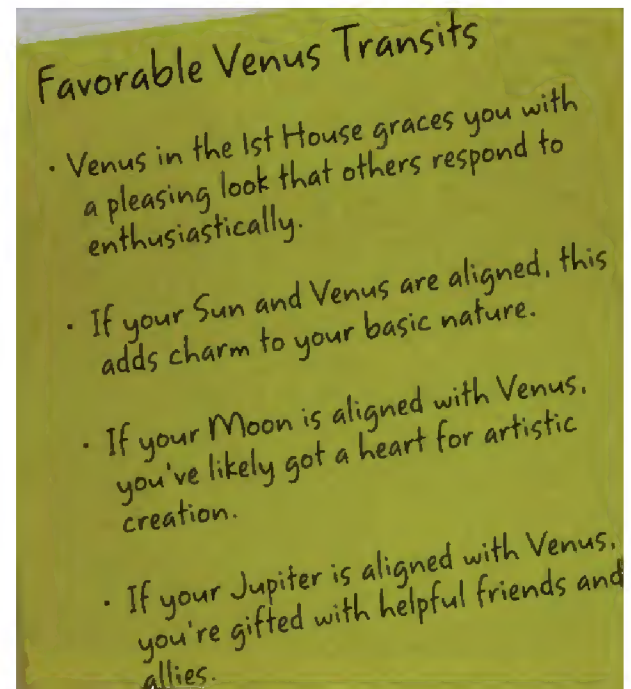
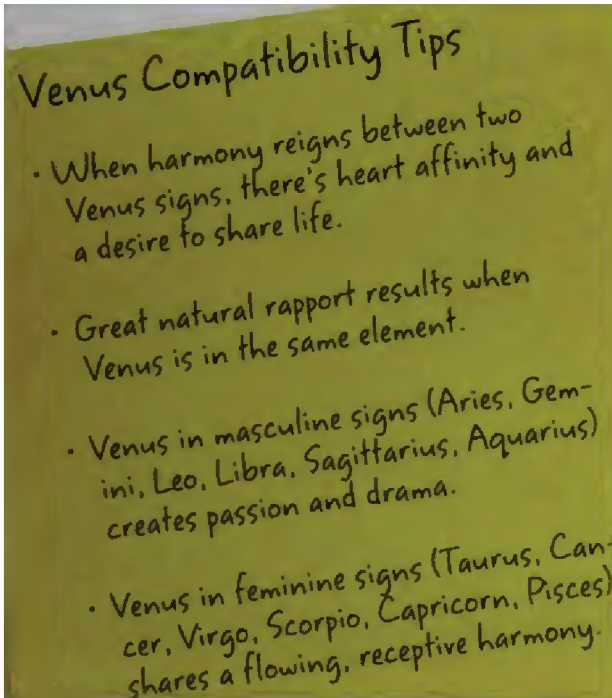
## *Mature Love*

- In a marriage, Venus is what makes a house a home, with comforts and pleasures that bring it to life.
- When there's compatibility, Venus makes marriage feel like a friendship, so that it's sustained through times when sexual passion is a lesser priority.
- Venus determines values in relationships, through things like loyalty and commitment.
- A shadow side of Venus is overdoing "love" or its pursuit at the expense of self-development; it loses substance or boundaries.

the everyday moment, so that first dates are a heightened experience.

Your Venus reveals your taste in sensual indulgences, how you flirt, and the pace of romance. Do you rush in or take your sweet time getting to know someone? Is your love life full of thrilling plot twists, or do you seek anchoring stability? Venus shows love made to order as a reflection of your desires.

If Venus handles the mood of love, Mars turns up the sexual heat. Mars is the masculine thrust forward, the one in pursuit, while Venus is the magnetic presence. When Venus is aligned with Mars, so, too, are sex and love in a relationship. Venus harmony enhances good feelings together, while a Mars-Venus match adds some delicious tension.





# ART & STYLE

Seeing the beauty in life and mirroring it back to the world

Venus is a guide to what you find aesthetically pleasing. It can be favorite movies and music, the way you dress, like signature colors, or whether you jump on trends or prefer a classic look; or the artful things that move your soul. Venus has likely played decorator in your home, choosing the palette and designs, and setting the level of quality. Someone with Venus in Aquarius may choose a sleek, minimalist design with

## *Fire Venus*

- Venus in Aries is drawn to the cutting edge and feels alive when taking creative risks.
- Venus in Leo seeks admirers and applause, and thrives when expressing the unique self in a dramatic, over-the-top way.
- Venus in Sagittarius seeks to weave together threads of color, and may be especially influenced by styles and traditions from around the world.

stainless-steel appliances. Meanwhile, sentimental Venus in Cancer goes for overstuffed chairs and family photos on every inch of wall space.

The particular tastes of Venus evoke the joy of being alive. It's awakened when what you encounter what you love. That love for life is expressed through creativity, as you make things that reflect what you experience as beautiful. Venus shows

## *Earth Venus*

- Venus in Capricorn works with the dense medium of physical matter, and may excel in sculpture, landscape architecture, and earthworks.
- Venus in Taurus traditionally has a fine voice and natural artistic gifts in music and the visual arts, but may also be drawn to the culinary arts.
- Venus in Virgo has a penchant for fine detailing, and may excel in calligraphy or drawing blueprints.

you where the gifts of your inner artist lie. She determines whether you're a solitary artist or thrive on collaboration.

A prominent Venus with favorable aspects can lead to success or wealth in a creative career. A conflicted Venus sets up obstacles to overcome if you are to fully experience creative self-expression. Following Venus is doing what you love, but her desires are either thwarted or supported by other planets in the birth chart. Venus in the elements is a guide to the medium that you're naturally gifted in. For example, an air sign Venus may be a wordsmith whose genius shines in the

### *Air Venus*

- Venus in Libra has a refined aesthetic eye and is an articulate communicator; possibilities exist in decorating, fashion, and writing.
- Venus in Gemini sees beauty in chaos and has a gift for collage-inspired art, music, or writings.
- Venus in Aquarius is fascinated by the higher order of life, and may be drawn to conceptual art or electronic music.

conceptualizing stage. An earth sign Venus works with the dense materials of wood, stone, brick, and mud, in fields like architecture and landscaping. The medium of Venus in water signs is the imaginative landscape, as natural poets and dreamers. A fiery Venus is intuitive and dramatic, lending talent in the expressive arts of dance, music, and drama.

### *Water Venus*

- Venus in Cancer finds the universal through the highly personal; possibilities for expression are drama or memoir writing.
- Venus in Pisces has a mystical-devotional leaning, and may seek to express the divine through art; possibilities abound in acting, the visual arts, music, and dance.
- Venus in Scorpio is a soul-mining artist, able to enter the dark territory of the psyche and find raw material there.

# FRIENDSHIP

## Your social circle, and the many ways of coming together

To watch kids on a playground is to see Venus learning to share life experience. It's the simple instinct that reaches out and says, "I like you!" What's your style in friendship? Some Venus signs are direct, and clasp hands immediately with their new best friend. Another Venus needs time to feel out a new friend, or to have a personal space cushion. What to one Venus is "too much, too soon," is the open attitude of another.

### *Friendship*

- Some Venus signs, like Libra, prefer being together one-on-one, while others like Aquarius are at home in the clique.
- A variety-seeking Venus (Gemini, Aries, Sagittarius, to name a few) is easy-come-easy-go, always making new friends.
- A more conservative Venus sign like Cancer, Virgo, Capricorn, or Taurus leans toward fewer but more enduring friendships.
- Some Venus signs gravitate to friends from "exotic" places, and may marry someone from another race or culture.

Venus determines our passions, and that leads us to those who enjoy similar hobbies, sports, clubs, and games. Often you're drawn to the qualities of the Venus in your birth chart that you admire, and want to cultivate in yourself. When meeting a new friend, Venus is the social face. You may have a warm, exuberant style, like Venus in Leo. Or you may be friendly but with an intense need for freedom, like Venus in Sagittarius,

### *Collaboration*

- Some Venus signs, like Sagittarius and Aquarius, are universally friendly and tuned in to the currents of the group.
- Venus in water signs has an emotional intelligence that is attuned to the nuances of relationships.
- Venus in earth signs or the "work houses" (2nd, 6th, and 10th) finds it easy to mix work and pleasure.
- Some Venus signs, such as Aries, have dramatic endings and beginnings, while others, like Virgo, are more constant in their affections.

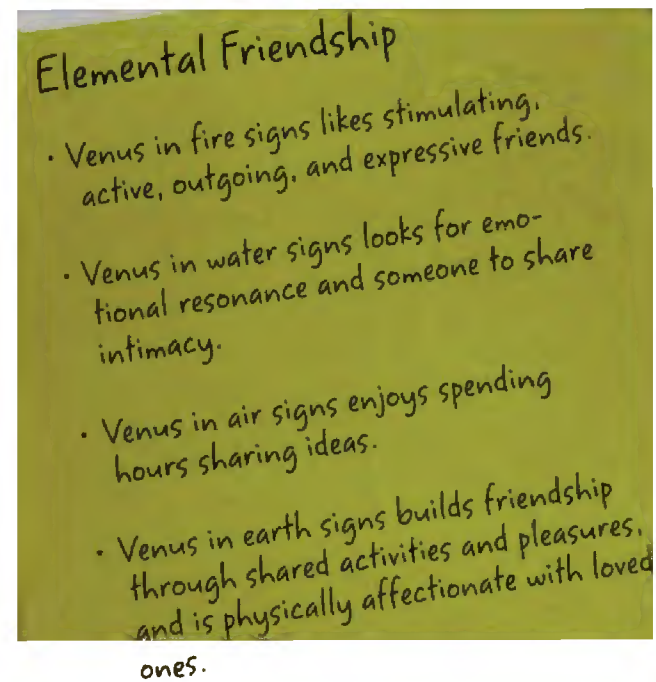
who prefers many acquaintances to just a few intimates.

And Venus in friendship determines how well you stay connected. A sentimental Venus in Cancer may find it painful to lose a friend, while a Venus in Gemini's social life is a revolving door of new faces that come and go.

## Old Friends

- A friend's Venus sign offers clues to what kinds of presents she'd like, especially little luxuries she'd never buy for herself!
- The shadow traits of our Venus sign show behaviors to watch out for; these flare up when you're let down in love or friendship.
- Venus tensions in a friendship create a provocative dynamic that can be a source of growth over a lifetime.
- The harmony between Venus in a friendship makes it a pleasure to spend time together.

Venus is not all sweetness and light; she shows her dark side in jealousy, subtle manipulation, or the passion for a friend-turned-enemy. In friendship we soften to let another in, and that exposes our emotional vulnerabilities. Friends who share Venus's unhealthy indulgences can be a bad influence on each other. The shadow qualities of Venus also come out when you feel rejected or betrayed by a friend.



# IN THE BIRTH CHART

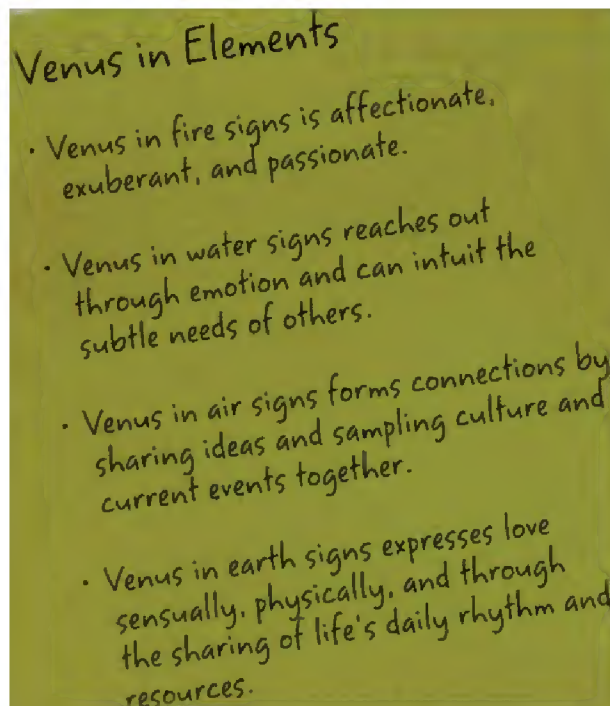
## How you attract others and learn about love's many faces

Venus adds the flourishes to your basic nature which are seen most clearly via Sun sign traits. But when you're smitten, Venus steals the show and reveals the love nature that's there within. So when the desire nature is aroused, your Sun sign is altered by those awakened Venus traits.

Venus reveals your personal magnetism and the values you're looking for in friendships and love. Her particular traits

either attract us or repel us from those we meet. It's startling sometimes to see Venus in her full glory, since her ways are not always the way of your Sun sign. To find your unique expression of Venus, look to the sign, house, and aspect in your birth chart. Since Venus is never more than 48 degrees from your Sun, she will be in either the same sign or a neighboring one.

### *Relationships*



- Venus rules the 2nd and 7th Houses in the birth chart; planets here are concerned with abundance and sensuality (2nd) and relating to a partner (7th).
- Venus governs money, as a means to afford life's luxuries and know true wealth.
- If Venus has hard aspects, you may experience self-denial or a sense of lack around money.
- Venus's house placement shows the sphere where you have a lust for life; it shows possible paths to career fulfillment via doing what you love.

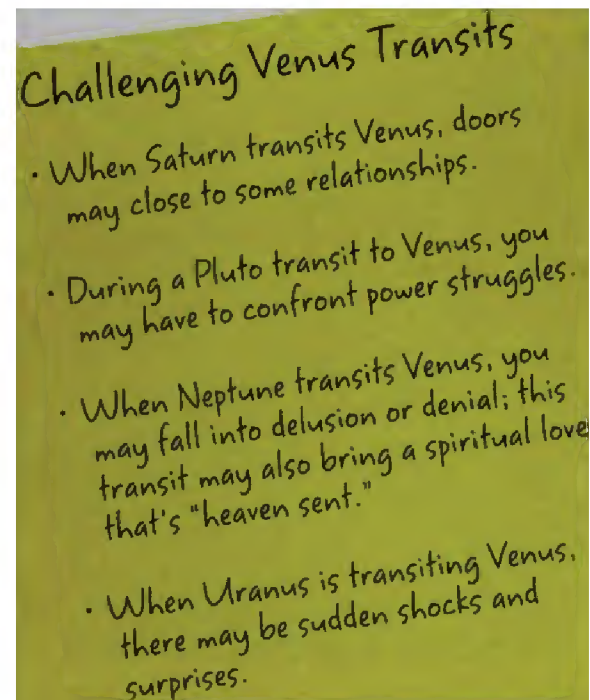
When your Venus is also your Sun sign, the two are mutually reinforcing, and the traits of that sign are amplified in all your relationships. Venus alters your nature in a different sign, but it takes an intuitive eye to see the nuances. For example, a Sun in Sagittarius is known for being easygoing and light-hearted in love. But with a Venus in Scorpio, that Sagittarius has emotional depth and a surprising urge to merge. Knowing this about your new happy-go-lucky lover makes you aware of that hidden intensity.

The house position of Venus points to the life spheres where

### *Love Troubles*

- If Venus traits are ignored or cut off with challenging aspects, it's hard to relax.
- When there are prominent Venus-Saturn contacts in a relationship, love may be equated with duty and short on fun.
- A Venus who dives into new love with abandon (fire and air signs) doesn't mix well with those who are emotionally sensitive and cautious (earth and water signs).
- Any planets in the 7th House will shape experiences related to love, especially when they are in aspect to Venus.

the relating action is likely to begin. If you've got Venus in the 6th House of Work, for example, you might make lots of new friends on the job. Look at Venus's aspects to other planets for major clues about the life lessons, gifts, and challenges each represents.





# MARS: MYTH & MEANING

The warrior god lights up the desire path and shows us what's worth fighting for

The Greeks knew him first as Ares, a brutal deity who was fearsome but not necessarily admired. He evolved into the Roman Mars, god of war and agriculture. His power to wield the sword became the same thrust that creates new life by disseminating its seeds. Mars is synonymous with masculine things, like vigorous sports, fighting, and hostile takeovers.

## *Mars*

- The mythical fighting god embodies the forces of aggression, action, vitality, and desire.
- Mars lights a fire under us to act and to assert our will into the world.

Mars carries a primal force that has a built-in fight-or-

flight mechanism; it alerts you to dangerous moments when you need to summon the fierce warrior within.

- Mars emboldens us and sparks conflict; its lessons are about learning to direct anger.

In astrology Mars is the will to act and go after what you want. Mars is virility in men—the dynamic radiance of someone who acts rather than merely reacting to life. In men and women it's the impulse to take charge and push against obstacles to make things happen.

Mars in the birth chart shows the capacity to take risks and

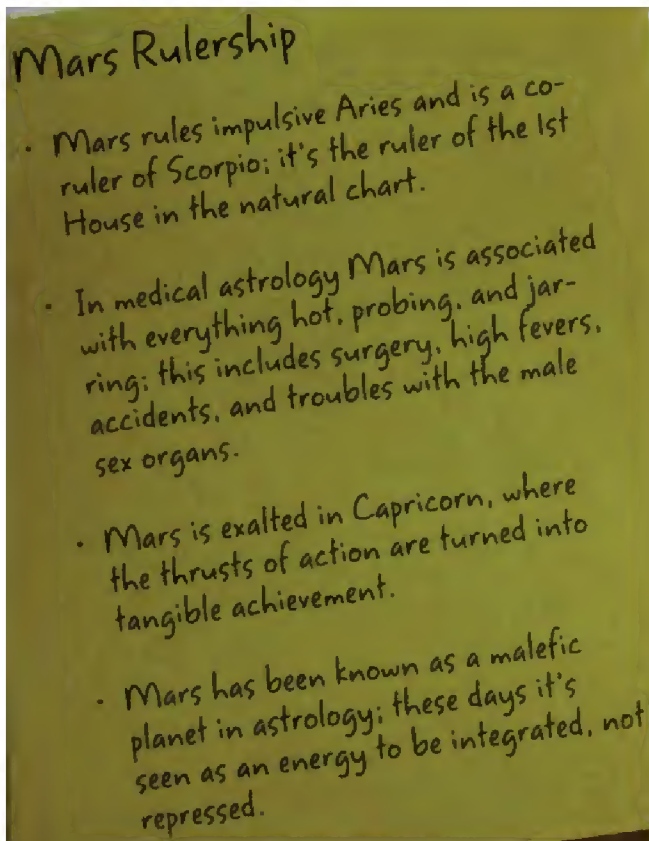
## *Erotica*

- Mars is the instigator of what you experience as sexual chemistry.
- While Venus's role is to enchant and attract, Mars sets the love hunt in motion and adds the sexy dimension of animal urges.
- Mars reveals the resonance of our passion (zodiac sign) and shows us which life sphere (house) it's likely to be activated in.
- The dark side of Mars is found in brutality, roughness, and sex cut off from the heart (Venus).

meet danger. In its raw form, it's just desire and force. Without a target to aim for, Martian energy turns to frustration and rage, or even violence. A stunted Mars wears the cloak of passive powerlessness, and when bottled up, it becomes poisonous. Learning to manage the hothead Mars can be a lifelong lesson, especially if it's square to a provocative planet like Pluto. But its fires should never be squelched; they are the surge of life force that keep passion alive.

Mars and Venus were mythic lovers, and it takes the pair to marry sex with love and make a dream become real. In myth Mars was in pursuit, with Venus the object of desire. In real life men and women may both act on their passions. Venus is all about seduction, while Mars provides the sparks of sexual tension.

## Warrior



- The path of Mars requires the handling of raw power and meeting challenges with courage.
- For women, Mars is the ability to act on desires and meet conflict with confidence.
- The energy of Mars is considered masculine, direct, yang; for men it is their maleness and ability to pursue, compete, and fight.
- Someone with a Mars-ruled chart thrives on intensity—whether as a competitive athlete, a soldier, a rival in business, a hot-blooded lover, or a fierce mother.

# SEXUAL COMPATIBILITY

The flames of desire that can keep passion alive or turn into a conflagration

The lusty planet Mars is a major player when it comes to relationships. Venus carries the values of a person in love, while Mars is more about the sex drive and tastes in bed. Venus sets the love mood; Mars is the inner urge to merge. Traditionally Mars has been linked to the man's modus operandi, and what a woman wants in a man.

## *Lust*

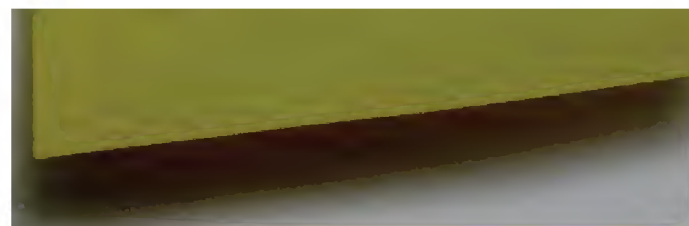
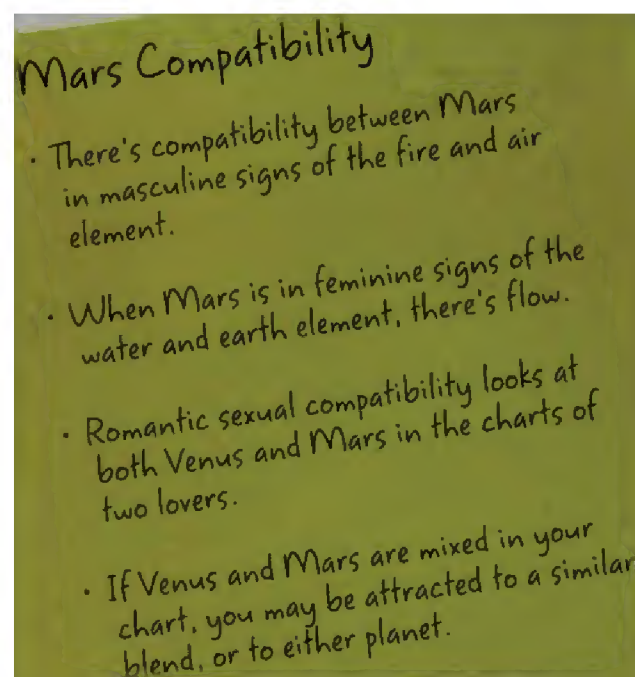
- Venus sends out interest vibes of a fascination or crush; Mars's look is hungry, urgent, and carnal.
- A Mars who comes on too strong, caveman-style, can soften it with the traits found in the Venus placement.

Some Mars signs (fire and air) are sexually candid and experimental with many partners.

- Other Mars signs (water and earth) move in stealthy ways and prefer the stability of monogamy.

As the strength of the libido, Mars is the male swagger of the mating ritual. Instinctively, Mars shows off his virility and personal power to prove he's got what it takes to create a family and protect it, too. It's an impulse that can be raw and carnal, or the handiwork of a smooth operator.

Some—such as Mars in Aries—like the rough stuff and

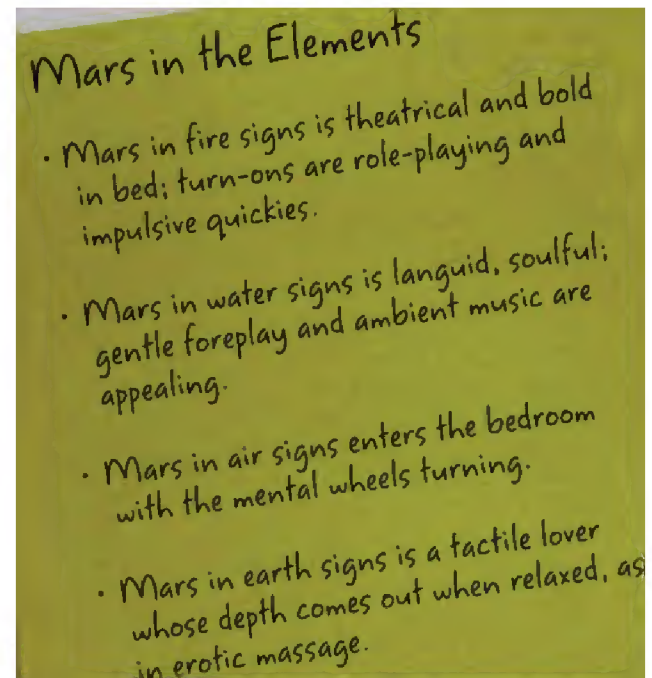


don't mind being known as a sexy beast. Others, like Mars in Pisces, have a gentle, intuitive lovemaking style. Mars in Gemini likes to nibble lightly from a varied sensual table, while Mars in Scorpio needs to devour and be devoured at a soul level. But every sexual relationship needs some healthy tantalizing tension to make things interesting. And the heat of Mars is what gets the heart racing with delicious urgency.

## Lovers

- Mars rules the libido, and aspects to Mars in the birth chart show its rhythm and potency.
- For men, Mars is the bravado and swagger of the mating game; the need to show physical prowess is the human animal's version of spreading its peacock wings.
- Mars's signals are seen in meat-market bars and clubs, and in a lusty look from your mate.
- When there is Mars-Venus harmony in a chart, sexual interest within the relationship can be sustained over time.

- The primal impulse of Mars has to be tamed in order to mate with the receptive Venus. When Mars
- can't be softened, it's harder for intimacy to unfold
- The fire that stokes desire can turn into dark passions, like jealous and possessiveness. And very often, what's led by sexual desire ends up being a
- whirlwind affair\_ exciting but short-lived.



# INITIATION

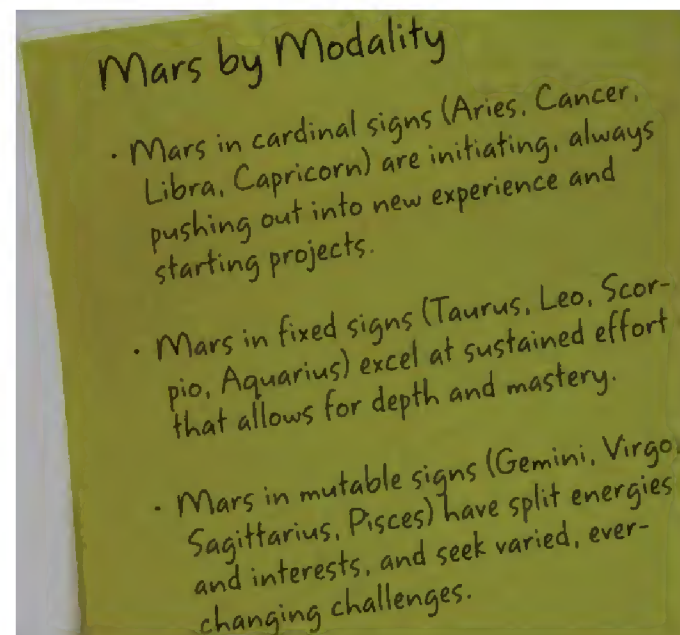
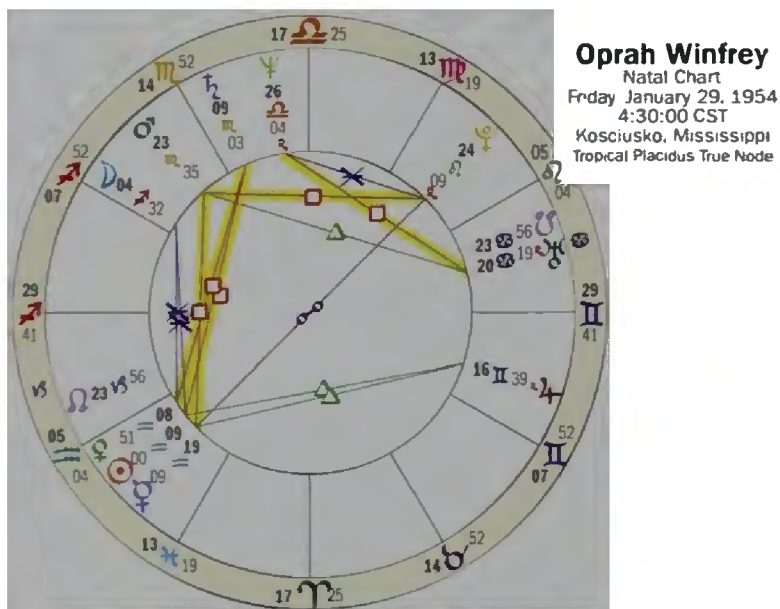
The planet of action, daring acts, and presenting the self in the world

Mars is the instigating force in the birth chart. It's the fiery source for qualities such as aggressiveness, self-assertion, anger, creativity, and taking charge. Its sign and house position determine how you go after what you want. The aspects to Mars are also very telling, since they show where that force is likely to be supported or to meet frustration. From an early

age you are lit from within, by your passions. You may react to these interests in a subtle way, like Mars in Virgo, and work hard to integrate them into your daily life. Or—as with Mars in Leo—you may broadcast your enthusiasms as extensions of who you are.

When Mars is stirred, you should take notice, since it's lead-

## *Oprah Winfrey's Chart*



- Oprah's Mars is in the fixed water sign of Scorpio and the 11th House of Friends.
- This Mars often wrestles with the dark side. Winfrey has confronted sexual abuse, both in childhood and at her girls' school in South Africa.
- There is a supportive harmony to Mars with the awakener Uranus in Cancer, seen here in the 7th House of Partnerships.
- By finding the courage to face personal betrayal and scandals, Oprah has become a universal healer archetype.

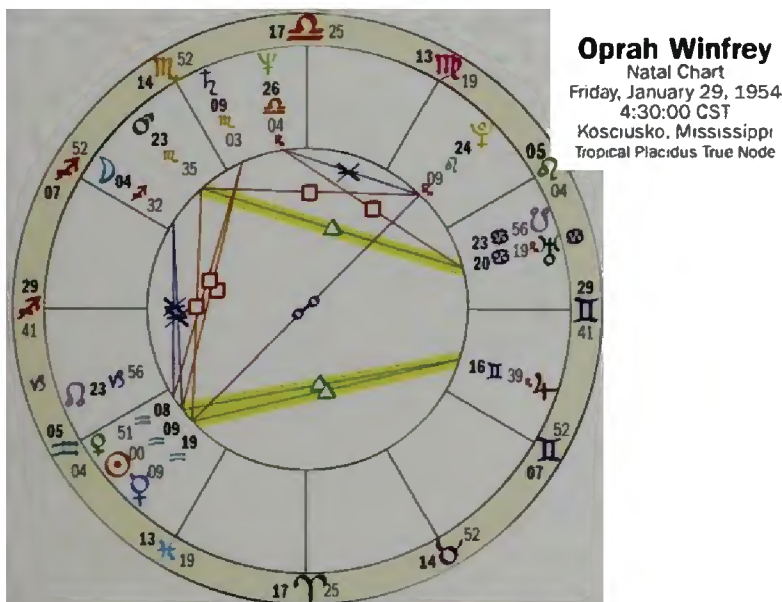


ing you to what's alive for you. If those desires are thwarted, that intensity is wound tightly within, with no outlet for expression. A repressed Mars can generate despair, since it makes us feel powerless. It's helpful to find ways to challenge yourself that are compatible with your Mars sign.

Every Mars has a different mode of expression, which can be detected with the intuitive eye. Understanding your own Mars can help you work with your strengths to cultivate the right conditions for blastoff.

- In the story of the tortoise and the hare, one critter dashed ahead but lost his focus, while another patiently plodded to win the race. When looking at Mars, there are some that take deliberate steps, while others rush toward a goal. The strength of Mars in the chart shows the will to sustain an effort over time.

### Oprah's Mars Aspects



- Oprah's chart includes two squares that are the source of friction. They're shown in the red lines that connect Mars to Pluto and Mercury.
- These squares involve fixed signs; the provoking energy affects the sense of stability.
- The Mars square to Pluto denotes someone driven by a need to know soul-level power through facing inner demons and releasing primal rage.
- The Mars square to Mercury makes Winfrey quick to speak, with an edge to her voice that puts people on the defensive.

**Mars by Element**

- Mars in fire signs is dynamic, impulsive, intuitive, and radiant.
- Mars in water signs acts on emotional impressions, and is tuned in to the inner needs of others.
- Mars in air signs is energized by thoughts and social life.
- Mars in earth signs seeks tangible achievement in the physical environment through self-control and hard work.



# MARS & ENERGY

Your red planet can be too hot, not hot enough, or just right

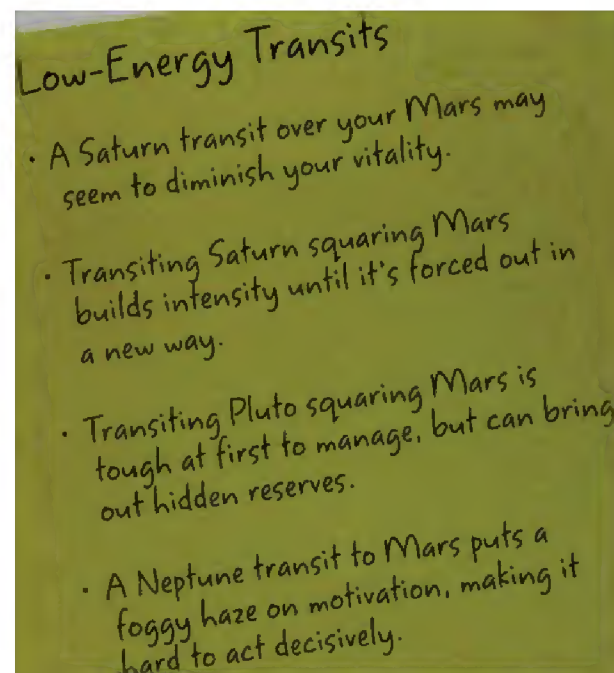
The fire of Mars is what puts the glow in our cheeks and a spring in our step. There's a strong link between Mars and vitality, and that in turn affects overall health. A prominent Mars full of vim and vigor, like Mars in Sagittarius, seems to never run out of steam. Others, like Mars in Libra, have energy that moves in fits and starts. Mars rules the muscular system and is responsible for stamina and sex drive. A conflicted

## *Vitality*

Mars has been linked to heat-related health problems, such as inflammation and fevers.

An opposition to Mars has a tendency to put out the fires of vitality. Squares to major planets may result in chronic low energy. Mars also sends us flying without a net, and can lead to accidents. Many of Mars's impacts on health are self-generated, since so much depends on how you manage

- One way to master Mars is to know what kinds of exercise keep you energized; your Mars sign has clues for the right activity.
- Regular exercise keeps Mars energy from building up and turning to frustration.
- Your Mars sign explains why you love roller derby action (Mars in Aries), or walking with a buddy every day (Mars in Libra).
- Look to the house placement of Mars for insight about which life sphere this movement is likely to take place in.



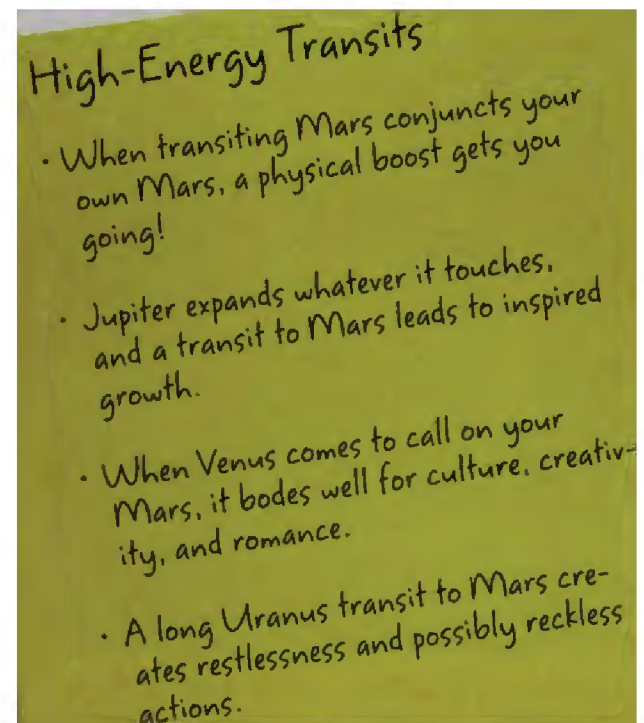
your own life force. By now the link between our emotions and health is accepted as real. When the natural urges of Mars turn into frustration, that raw energy has no release and is driven back into the body. It's a vicious cycle that diminishes mind, body, and spirit.

Ever got the courage to quit a job you hated, and immediately felt like you were coming back to life? That's Mars signaling to you that you did the right thing. The momentum of possibility starts flowing again from within. Following your passions is

- good for your health.

## Exercise

- Some signs are known for endurance, like Mars in Sagittarius, a placement for runners and triathletes.
- Mars in air signs have the hardest time getting into their bodies, but this is overcome with conscious effort.
- Some Mars signs are disciplined about their exercise (Virgo), while others lose interest quickly unless it's fun (Leo).
- An air or fire sign Mars needs exercise to be mentally stimulating; a competitive aspect helps sustain interest.



# MARS IN ACTION

The direct force that behaves badly or can be used to achieve great things

When meeting a new person, we sometimes feel a sense of threat. Mars manages the survival instinct, and when there's bad chemistry here, this triggers the flight-or-fight mechanism. It's when the primal will of one is at odds with another, and that can lead to clashes. This may mean subtle insults or a more overtly aggressive action.

## *Fighting*

- The house position of Mars in the birth chart shows when and where battles are fought.
- A well-placed Mars finds natural outlets for its impulses and desires.

When Mars has tense aspects to other planets, its

- energy is more volatile, and you must apply conscious effort to manage it.
- A square or opposition to Mars isn't bad in itself; these hard aspects can guide us to remarkable feats, since they carry a sense of urgency.

To understand Mars in a birth chart is to know the particular style of self-assertion. You may get on famously with a friend until you have a disagreement. For example, if your Mars in Sagittarius hits like a flaming arrow, while your friend's Mars in Cancer prefers to handle conflict indirectly, it can lead to continual discord. In an office, these differences can derail a

## *Passion*

- The modality of Mars shows how you tango with others, whether you lead (cardinal signs), excel at keeping the rhythm (fixed signs), or dance freestyle (mutable).
- When actors perform love scenes, audiences know whether there is chemistry; astro-casting looks at sexual sparks, and Mars plays a lead role.
- A couple with tense Mars contacts is one that fights vigorously and makes up with equal passion.
- When Mars energy is unconsciously exuded, it opens the door to abuse.

project—or be just the right mix to carry it to the end.

An air sign Mars shines during the brainstorming phase, while earth signs make sure the plans will hold up over time. A fire sign Mars ignites enthusiasm and energizes the team with fresh insights. The water sign Mars adds an understanding of emotional nuance and timing. Being aware of the Mars mix of any group is valuable insider info, allowing any kinks to be worked out while respecting each person's approach.

- Without Mars, you'd never get off the couch. It's
- the spark that gets us going and protects us from
- danger. When you're energized by an idea, goal, or
- sense of purpose, Mars is pressed into service. To
- master Mars is to find healthy self-assertion. Too
- little and you are without passion and afraid, too
- much and you run roughshod over others

## *Frustration*



- Some aspects, like the square between Mars and Saturn, bring severe frustration that takes a lot of trial and error to work through.
- A conflicted Mars holds back its force with repression, which can be then triggered and explode into the open.
- When Mars is well matched to the Sun, it acts as the initiator of the Sun's life purpose.
- When Mars and the Moon are conflicted, emotions can be combustible.

# JUPITER: MYTH & MEANING

The benevolent guide with big rewards for following its call

The mythic Jupiter has always been seen as a kindly father, pointing humanity toward its highest potential. In Jupiter you have a cosmic mentor, if you are willing to do the footwork. It's the planet that nudges you to find an overarching meaning so you'll stay inspired and keep on the path of destiny. The Greeks linked this visible planet with Zeus, the king of the gods, and honored him as "light-bringer."

## *Jupiter*

The Romans later called on Jupiter to preside over religion, government, and philosophy. With Jupiter in the house, discourse could be elevated from the petty and mundane. His regal presence was meant to evoke the lights of truth seeking and morality, as the motivator for human affairs.

Jupiter stands at the leading edge of awareness as a herald of future visions and potentials, leading us beyond known

## *Wealth*

- The god Jupiter was often depicted as the wise sage in the center of the zodiac in ancient Greece and Rome.
- Jupiter rules all the areas in which an overarching meaning is sought; these include religion, publishing, philosophy, and the legal profession.
- Jupiter guides you to a mission greater than yourself; its sign and house position are clues to that path.
- Jupiter is the planet of luck, but you must be prepared for those moments when the doors of opportunity open.
- Jupiter's role is to expand, while Saturn's role is to limit; both are important for sustained, focused growth.
- When there's too much Jupiter, the faith in the self is overblown, and there's a tendency toward grandiosity, indolence, and procrastination.
- When Saturn is overplayed, the optimism of Jupiter can be crowded out, and limits can become narrow confines.
- Jupiter shows your capacity to think big, while Saturn's influence is to keep your dreams within the bounds of reality.

limits and constantly expanding our perspective.

In today's astrology Jupiter is still a path marker for the inspired life. To follow the giant planet is to heed the signs and serendipities that shout out possibility. There's a sense of fate about these offerings, and they kindle something within. A Jupiter-wise person takes these leaps of faith, knowing they'll bring luck and growth.

### *Jupiter Rulership*

- Jupiter rules Sagittarius, Pisces, and the 9th House, which deals with higher learning, travel, and the quest for meaning.
- In medical astrology, Jupiter is associated with the liver, circulation of the blood, and problems from overindulging.
- Jupiter is exalted in Cancer, which guides the search for compassion and nurturing.
- Jupiter's moniker in traditional astrology is the "Greater Benefic"—a planet that draws you toward growth and good fortune.

Some scholars say it was a rare Jupiter conjunction with Saturn that led the Three Magi as the Star of Bethlehem. Jupiter rules journeys and seeking, and the two come together in travel that widens our horizons. The giant planet has always been visible in the night sky—a beacon to remind us of unity with the cosmos.

### *Jupiter at Night*

- Jupiter is associated with divination and astrology; its signs have a way of reminding you that the universe drops hints about what you're meant to do.
- Jupiter's themes have a strong resonance and keep coming back. These are messages meant to inspire.
- When you heed Jupiter's call, it buoys the spirit and cultivates a sense of optimism.
- Jupiter opens doors and brings allies, if you have eyes to see them.



# ELEMENTAL JUPITER

The energetic currents that guide you to your highest potential

The element of your Jupiter sign shows the medium in which you thrive. With a fire sign Jupiter, you progress by being a spontaneous risk taker; in water, the path has you swimming in the emotional currents. Air sign Jupiter is nourished by social mixing and the pursuit of fascinations, while earth signs sense their way slowly, through what is real and tangible.

Your Jupiter element is also a defining factor in how growth

## *Fire Jupiter*

- Jupiter in fire signs is expressive, bursting with energy, and able to encourage others with a generous spirit.
- Jupiter in Aries grows by facing fears and living up to high standards of achievement, no matter what others say is possible.

Jupiter in Leo is drawn to the dramatic arts. This is a larger-than-life persona, radiating dignity.

- Jupiter in Sagittarius is always seeking to expand through travel or learning. A basic trust in life allows for major risk taking.

opportunities come your way. It's the mode of creativity you're instinctively drawn to—a path to cultivate natural talents. Those with Jupiter in fire signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) are invigorated from within and geared toward action. They've often got big personalities that infuse the scene with energy and drama. If your Jupiter is in a water sign (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces), you're led with the heart, and collect impressions and

## *Earth Jupiter*

Jupiter in earth signs thrives when following a routine of hands-on work that feels productive and engages the senses.

- Jupiter in Capricorn finds a fulfilling path when substantial achievement and authority are promised in line with deeply held values.

Jupiter in Taurus grows best when able to root solidly in a place, in relationships, and in work that generates abundance.

- Jupiter in Virgo finds its luck through service to others and healing and refining the holistic self of mind, body, and spirit.

memories in your quest for meaning. You're sensitive to the emotions of others, and tuned in to what goes unsaid. This sharpens your ability to make wise intuitive decisions about the future. The air sign Jupiter (Libra, Aquarius, Gemini) is kept vital by a constant stream of fresh ideas. You're happiest in lively social settings with bright minds that can match your pace. If your Jupiter is in an earth sign (Capricorn, Taurus, Virgo), you grow when you're on solid ground and able to dig into projects with substance. You like to work hard, build mastery, and feel part of the natural world.

### *Water Jupiter*

- Those with Jupiter in water signs expand when they can use emotional impressions to guide action.
- Jupiter in Cancer grows by nurturing a family feeling at home or work, and using emotional intelligence and imagination to their full potential.
- Jupiter in Scorpio finds faith by turning inner darkness into light, going deep with others, and managing the primal healing power within.
- Jupiter in Pisces sees doors open through devotion to a higher mystical awareness, via art or as a spiritual seeker.

When Jupiter is in fire and air signs, there's a tendency to surge forward into new ground. Water and earth signs take a more cautious approach, often being tuned in to the underpinnings of a situation. As feminine signs, the latter two tend to grow inwardly, through reinforcing what's already in place.

### *Air Jupiter*

- Those with Jupiter in air signs thrive through the exchange and cultivation of ideas, and by being in the mix socially.
- Jupiter in Libra finds its luck when relating one-on-one and when exercising a fair, diplomatic mind-set.
- Jupiter in Aquarius explores mental frontiers, even if that veers into the odd, eccentric, or revolutionary.
- Jupiter in Gemini shows quickness and dexterity in many areas. Doors open through the constant shuffling of forms and ideas.

# JUPITER IN ACTION

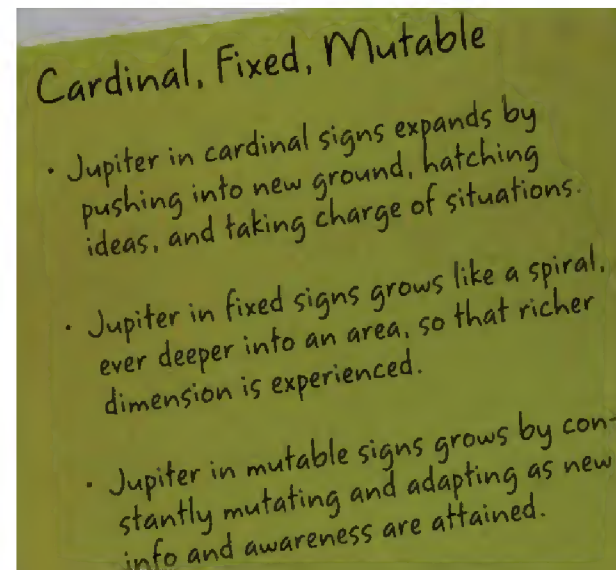
## On the high road to self-improvement

Along with the element, Jupiter's quality is key to determining how you seek growth. In a cardinal sign (Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn), Jupiter tends to push the envelope and initiate in a driving way. In a fixed sign (Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius, Taurus), Jupiter settles into one area of experience, achieving depth. In a mutable sign (Sagittarius, Pisces, Gemini, Virgo), diversity of what's learned and constant sets the tempo.

### *Higher Education*

Take what you know about your Jupiter's element and pair it with the quality to gauge how it behaves in your life. Its sign, house, and aspects in your birth chart reveal what kinds of support or resistance come with following your lucky star.

In astrology, Jupiter is often discussed along with the balancing planet Saturn, which brings structure to dreams. When Jupiter isn't grounded in reality, you get the person



- Jupiter rules learning—the ways that you integrate what you know into a Big Picture.

Studies have shown that each Jupiter sign behaves differently in the classroom; luckily, since Jupiter stays in a sign for a year, many children in a grade share the same sign!

- Jupiter determines what you're fascinated by and how you connect the dots to meaning.

Jupiter's role is to learn new things and, together with Mercury, integrate them into what's already known.

who's all big talk and no action, or someone who can't seem to find traction. In a birth chart Saturn is the anchor for the enthusiasms of Jupiter, allowing real achievement to be attained. Jupiter is the idealist and Saturn the realist, and when you draw on the strengths of each, you're able to reach your highest aspirations in a disciplined way.

As a guiding light, Jupiter's particular specialty is what makes us feel generous, joyful, friendly, and open to the good things in life. Its story is the narrative that weaves in truths to live by; its intuitive lead revitalizes from within. Jupiter's sign carry a charge and restore your faith that you're on the right path.

### *True Calling*

### *Ambition*

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sign and house placement shows where Jupiter's enthusiasms are generated; Jupiter in the 2nd House or in sensualist Taurus, for instance, could inspire interest in the culinary arts.</li> <li>• The aspects of the parents' planets to a child's Jupiter will show whether they</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>boosted or were hindrances to the natural potential.</li> <li>• Jupiter will reveal your unique brand of humor, and what you do to lift your spirits.</li> <li>• Jupiter's position shows areas where you're able to restore faith after setbacks.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jupiter's realm is the higher mind, and the pursuit of the wisdom of the ages.</li> <li>• Jupiter's transit through one sign will influence collective aspirations and areas of cultural expansion.</li> <li>• As Jupiter moves through a sign, its themes will influ-</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ence the collective higher mind through books, entertainment, fashion, and technology.</li> <li>• A shadow side of Jupiter is seen in dogmatic beliefs, delusions of grandeur, and optimism that's not based in reality.</li> </ul> |
|---|--|--|--|

# SPHERE OF LIFE

The life area in which you explore your highest potential

The house position of Jupiter is where you're likely to enjoy major growth and an atmosphere of well-being. The activities of that house can be naturally uplifting—a magnet that draws you toward expansion. Jupiter is associated with prosperity, because—as the saying goes—when you follow your bliss, the money will follow. An open, expectant attitude is a sure attractor of opportunities. Your luck house, where

## *Eternal Student*

Jupiter resides, is where you'll shine and be gregarious. It's the setting for your hero's journey, where remarkable things happen that seem to be evidence of a divine hand. But it can also be where you're overly idealistic, extravagant, and know no limits.

The excesses of Jupiter can be seen in over-the-top themes of the particular house. A 3rd House Jupiter, for example,

## *Healer*

- Jupiter is associated with travel that expands the mind and adds to a sense of purpose or vision.

Jupiter's influence shows us the world as a global village, with each colorful strand adding something valuable to the tapestry.

- Jupiter-ruled people are intellectually curious, and often have talent with foreign languages.

- Jupiter's influence takes us beyond known boundaries to explore our place in a town, region, country, world, and even universe.

- When you follow Jupiter's promptings, it leads to a sense that you're on the right path.

- The pace of growth is fast when Jupiter is present; this is seen in both physical swiftness and a quick mental grasp of overarching themes.

- Jupiter rules belief, and through its activities you develop faith in ourselves and an order in life.

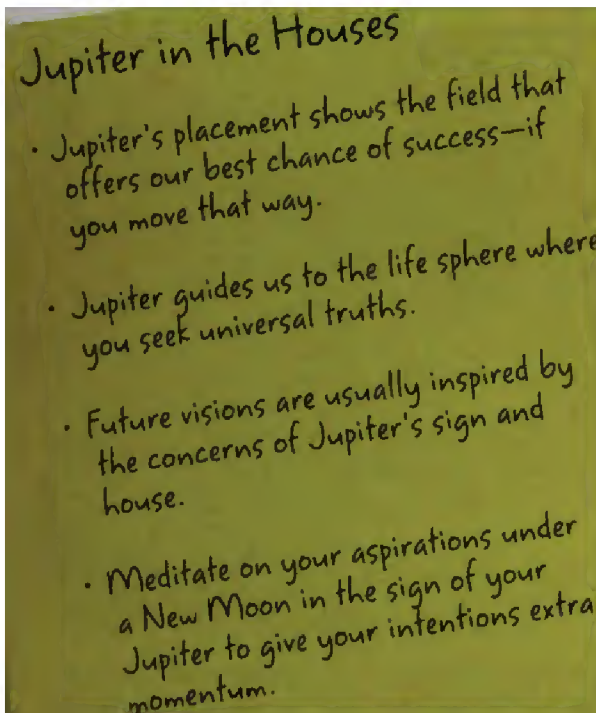
- Jupiter's realm is where you're rewarded for taking risks—when they are balanced with Saturn's realism.

spins on casual talk and the information whirl. If it's super-sized here, Jupiter can become strung out and addicted to distractions. But since Jupiter's house is where you've got natural talent, you're just as likely to earn kudos as a speaker or writer. Jupiter's house shows us the areas where taking risks builds confidence. Leaps of faith there have big payoffs, and success comes in surprising ways.

## YELLOW LIGHT

It's never wise to grasp too rigidly to structures such as the houses. Use them as an intuitive starting point; otherwise, they can lock you into limiting ideas about potential. Jupiter's riches work in cahoots with other planets. If your Jupiter house position doesn't resonate as the sweet spot, hold it as a question that you can answer with life experience.

### *Destiny*



- Jupiter reveals the activities that make your spirits soar and comfort you with a sense that the universe is championing your dreams.
- It's the planet associated with good health, since having a life purpose is uplifting to mind, body, and spirit.
- When you consciously follow Jupiter, you feel tapped into something larger than yourself.
- Jupiter's placement shows the area that you idealize, and the base from which you dream big.



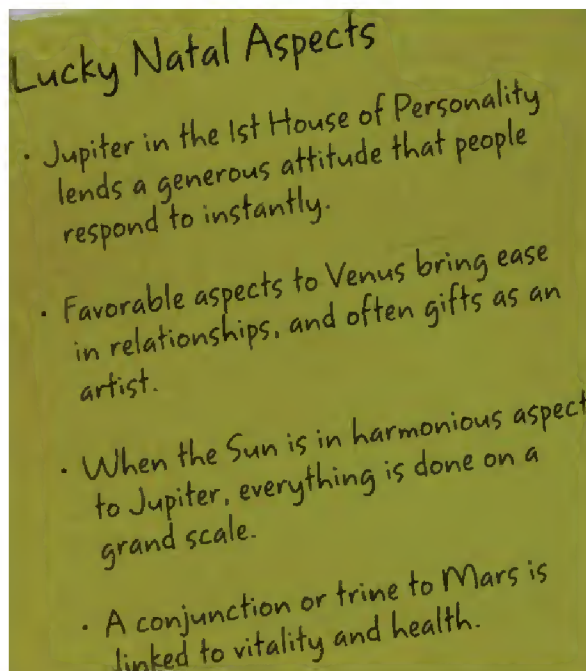
# LUCKY STARS

Following Jupiter shows us how to favor chance by staying present to possibilities

Sometimes luck comes unexpectedly, but most of the time we create our own. Jupiter's high spirits and hope generate the kind of atmosphere that attracts luck. If you actively go after what has the Jupiter spark, your efforts ripple out in every direction. Helpful friends lend a hand, or a project drops in your lap when Jupiter is on your side.

When Jupiter is well placed and in harmony to other planets, it does seem as though you're born under a lucky star. Those with Jupiter in the 1st House have a "lucky face" that attracts help and resources in abundance. When Jupiter is well aspected to Venus, you know luck in love, and friendships are a blessing. Jupiter also tends to increase and vitalize

## *Fortune Cookie*



- When your luck turns, Jupiter may be in harmonious aspect to one of your planets.
- Money luck can come when Jupiter transits the 2nd House, but also when it draws out your creative capacity via planetary contacts.
- When Jupiter comes calling, there can be sudden progress in an area where you've been doing the legwork.
- Jupiter generates happy vibes and a feeling that life is effortless; this combination can lead to a lackadaisical attitude and missed opportunities.

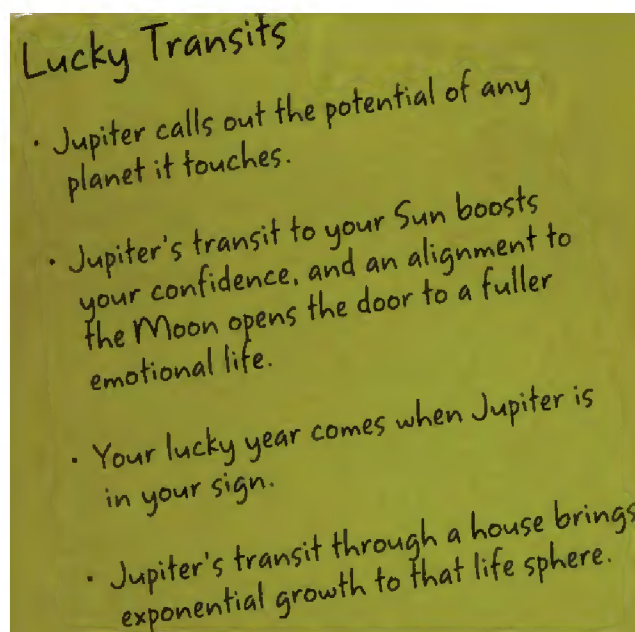
the life area or planet it transits through.

There are times in life when Jupiter smiles on you, with an unexpected career move, a new home, or that soul mate of our dreams. Jupiter brings offerings, however, not sure things, and the key is seeing them and acting on them. Too much luck can actually make things too easy for a person, so that what's gained has no value. When luck meets hard work and talent, that's when true potential is revealed.

- Jupiter rules Sagittarius, a sign known to be happy
- go-lucky with a love of knowledge and adventure
- The jovial spirit of Sagittarius is a shining example
- of how luck comes to those who expect it. With
- their faith that it'll all work out in the end, these
- people act spontaneously on lucky breaks. This
- makes them both happy and lucky!

## *Blissed Out*

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- When your Jupiter is in harmony with your partner's Venus, everything about love is enlivening to the spirit.
- When your Jupiter is supported by your love's other planets, it makes the relationship feel right for the future.
- Jupiter's transit through the 5th House of Romance and Risks brings the fun of love to the fore.
- Jupiter's transit through the 7th House of Partnerships brings substantial love connections and new friendships.

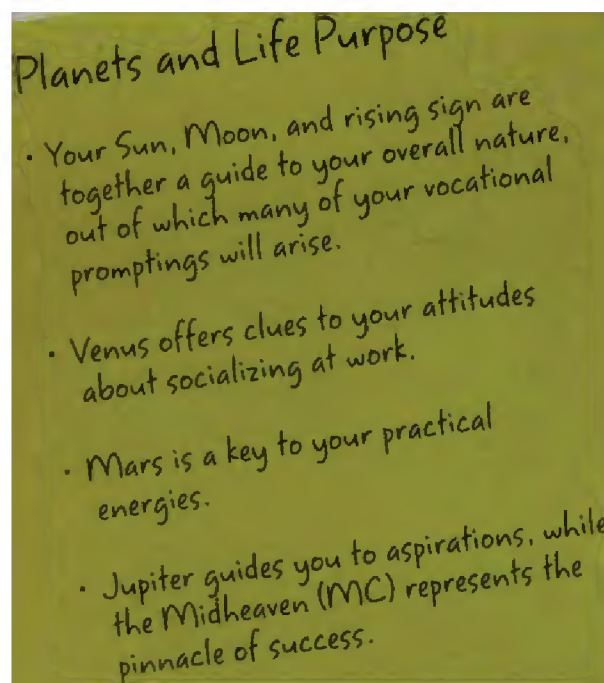
# BIRTH CHART CLUES

Career themes are a blend of natural gifts, orientation, and sense of calling

In an ideal world your talents and interests would be lovingly supported as you grow up, guiding you to lifework that is a natural match. But in reality, the path to career fulfillment is often marked by fits, starts, and sea changes that keep you on a circuitous path. You may not find your true passion until later in life; you may change careers many times.

On a birth chart, the aspects to major planets show the points of ease along that road, as well as where you're likely to meet resistance. If you've got Sun squaring Saturn, for example, you'll need to summon perseverance to handle the setbacks common with this natal signature. The trines show places of strength in your character that help you get

*Ascent*



- Jupiter and 9th House planets are a guide to how far you're likely to go—mentally and through travel—to seek knowledge.
- The elements in a chart determine the medium of your lifework: action and intuition (fire), emotional realities (water), ideas (air), or the tangibles (earth).
- Strong imaginative gifts are seen in Neptune-inspired charts, or with many planets in the 5th House of Creativity.
- Saturn's placement shows how well you use your time and stick with a change to the end.

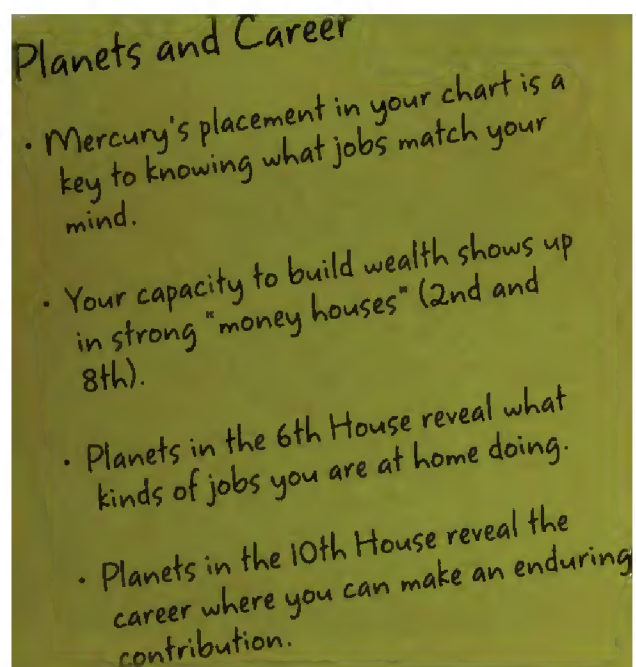
ahead. But the squares and oppositions create demanding frictions that motivate you to discover strength you didn't know you had.

The birth chart is a guide to potentials, including the kinds of work you're good at and the environments that suit your nature. It shows the MC or Midheaven that is where you keep your eyes on the prize for lifetime achievement. And when you see the flavor of your 6th House of Work, you'll discover what daily rhythm leads to satisfaction.

## YELLOW LIGHT

Sometimes you land in jobs that satisfy only one dimension of who you are. Transits to natal planets can activate latent potential. That's why a job that's fine today may be unbearable tomorrow! It's a sign that destiny is calling, nudging you to grow and reach for your creative potential.

### *Work Life*



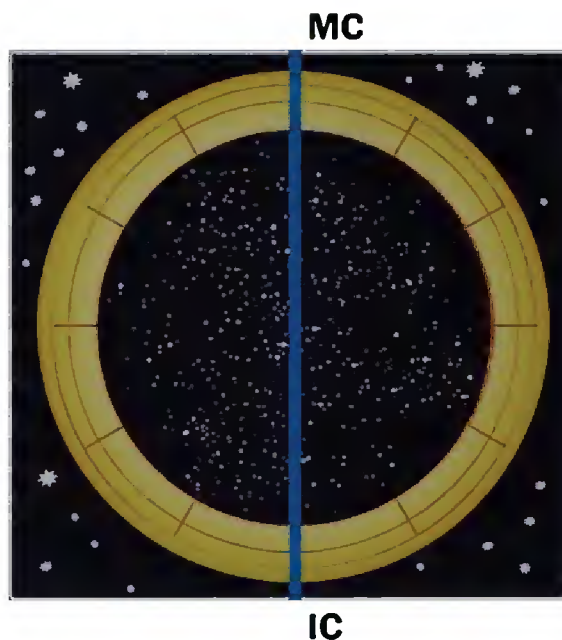
- A certain job may satisfy a Mercury in Virgo's head for details while boring the Leo Sun; it takes time to find work fulfilling to the whole self.
- If you've lost your sense of direction, look to Midheaven and Jupiter placements for inspiration.
- As you evolve and are affected by transits, your idea of the right livelihood will change.
- A key to the right work is energy level. Move toward activities that give you energy rather than draining your life force.

# MIDHEAVEN

The path toward the loftiest goals and greatest potential for public acclaim

When you're floundering without career direction, take time to reflect on the Midheaven. The sign and any planets near your 10th House show the way to your true potential, the one that deep down you know will include obstacles galore. The fulfillment of the Midheaven is the process of becoming good at what you do, perhaps even an expert.

## *Midheaven*



- The Midheaven (MC) is the sign on the 10th House cusp.
- Learning to master the energy of the Midheaven sign leads to career success.

The potential of the MC is fulfilled only through discipline, perseverance, and facing fears.

- Saturn-ruled Capricorn gives the 10th House its reputation for being the life area to build authority and expert status through a solid career based on experience.

When you are expressing the traits of the Midheaven, you have made the most of your time, talents, and resources. You carry an air of authority. You may have lots of joblets and income streams, but the Midheaven is the path toward your life's calling. The Midheaven is like a beacon on the horizon, guiding your inner sense of your path toward both personal

## *Pinnacle*

- The atmosphere around the MC in the birth chart shows the culminating stage that began with identity (the Ascendant).
- Planets near the MC will color how you're seen as a public figure; the presence of many planets near the IC indicates that your contributions remain veiled.
- Favorable aspects to the MC support career success, and are clues to making the most of your potential.

It's the presentation of the self as part of a wider community, and reflects the public persona.

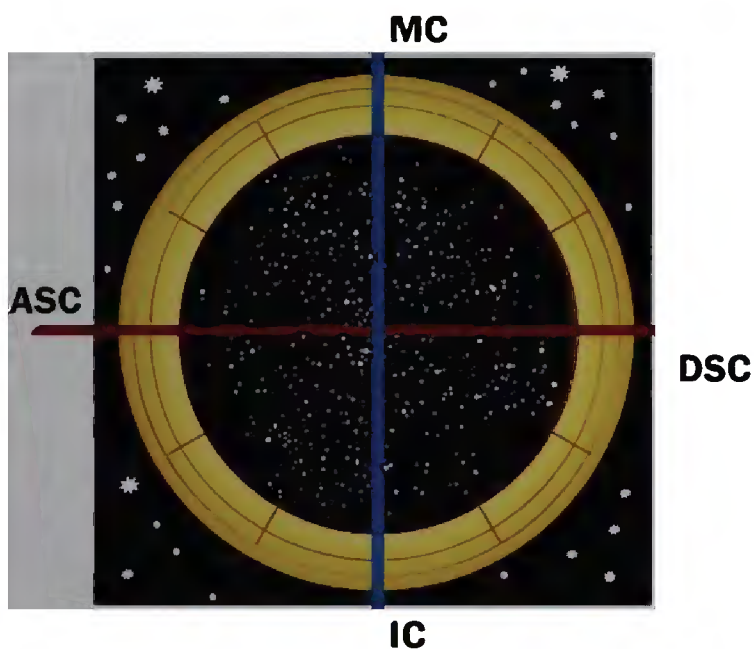
growth and leaving a lasting legacy.

Any planets and planetary relationships that involve the Midheaven will have a big impact on career and public image. Clues to how your upbringing taught you to take a place in society are found here. Traditionally, the career mentor has been the father, but today's astrologers now see the mother's guiding hand in the 10th House. Later, bosses take on that role, especially those who actively work to further your career progress.

The IC (Imum Coeli) is opposite the MC at the Fourth House cusp. Imum Coeli is latin for "the bottom of the sky." The Mid heaven (Medium Coeli, or "middle of the sky") is the rooftop portal that makes us visible to the world, and the IC is the secret door to your past, both your ancestors and heritage, and your soul past before birth.

### *Angles in Chart*

### *Career Peaks*



- Each angle on the horizon-meridian axes is important to an individual's orientation.
- These are the Ascendant (ASC), the Imum Coeli (IC), the Descendant (DSC), and the Medium Coeli or Midheaven (MC).
- The Ascendant is your singular identity, apart from others; the Descendant denotes how you relate to others in one-on-one situations.
- The IC represents the collective foundation of past, memory, and traditions. The MC is your path of growth.
- If you were to write your own epitaph, it would likely include the values of the MC as the way you'd like to be remembered.
- The MC shows what kind of enduring legacy you aspire to leave for future generations.
- The path along the MC gives insight into ways you can develop a body of work that has substance.
- It's the cusp of the house of personal authority, and determines whether you grow into self-governance or allow others to be the boss.



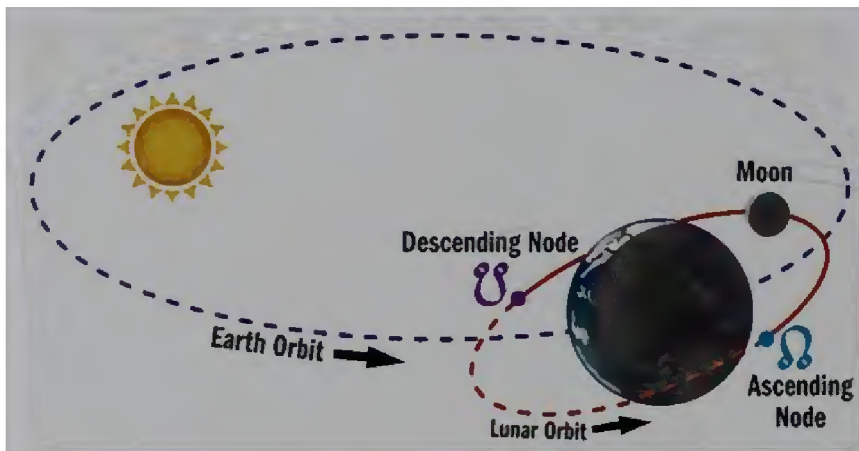
# NORTH NODE

## The soul's call to grow over a lifetime

At the moment of your birth the Moon's nodes were at a point that intersected the plane of the ecliptic. Mathematically, this is where the lines of the Moon's monthly path meet the lines of the Sun's yearly path around the zodiac.

The Moon's nodes in the birth chart tell the story of its relationship to the Earth and Sun. In astrology these important points are indicators of your soul's evolutionary path. The

### *North Node*



**THE NORTH AND SOUTH NODES OF THE MOON**

- The North and South Nodes are not planets, but points in the chart that grow into certain traits.
  - The South Node carries the impression left on the soul from past lives. You could call it the soul's base
  - The South Node's qualities are built-in and require little effort to live out.
- The North Node's qualities must be consciously developed, however. Thus they grow more complete as the years go by.

South Node is the direction you're coming from; the North Node, where you're heading. The South Node can be considered your inheritance, including karma from past lives. It's like a distant echo that reverberates into this life with an irresistible pull.

The sign and house of your South Node hold insights about the instinctual behaviors and hidden history impressed

### *Soul Destiny*

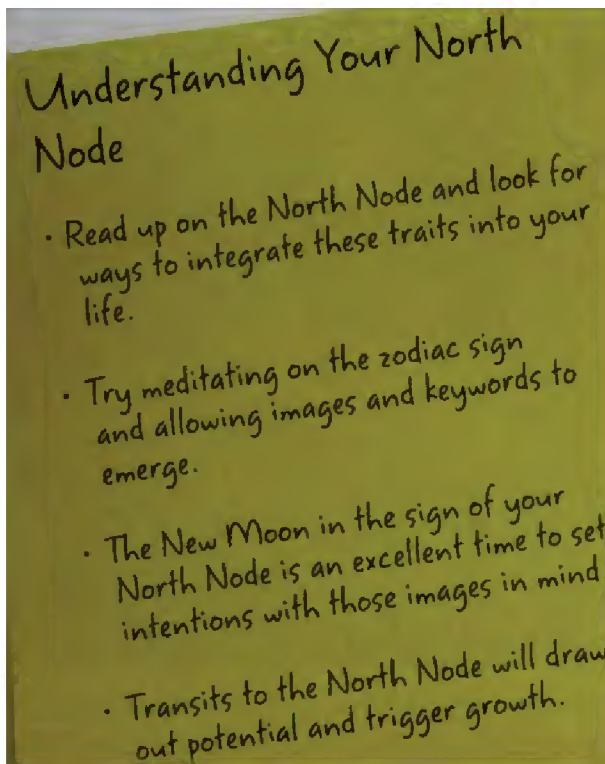
- In recent times astrologers have come to emphasize the North Node as a signpost showing the soul which way to go.
- The South Node carries "bad karma" showing up as negative patterning, which you need to learn to grow past.
- The South Node pulls like a magnet toward instinctive reactions, which can keep you spinning your wheels.
- The soul grows when you resist such instinctive reactions and embrace the qualities of the North Node.

on your soul. It's easy to replay that drama—the groove is already there—but it's not very fulfilling. As you mature during a lifetime, the values of the North Node start to seem more attainable. It represents the kind of life you can achieve with conscious effort. And by doing so, it brings resolution to the unfinished business of the South Node, challenging you to take only the best of the past into the future.

## GREEN LIGHT

- The North Node can stir up fear, and it takes time to adjust to this unfamiliar way of being. The process is an evolutionary path, but that doesn't mean the South Node is left behind completely. The story here is about harmonizing opposing energies, and using that as anchor to give your life a greater sense of purpose.

### *Inheritance*



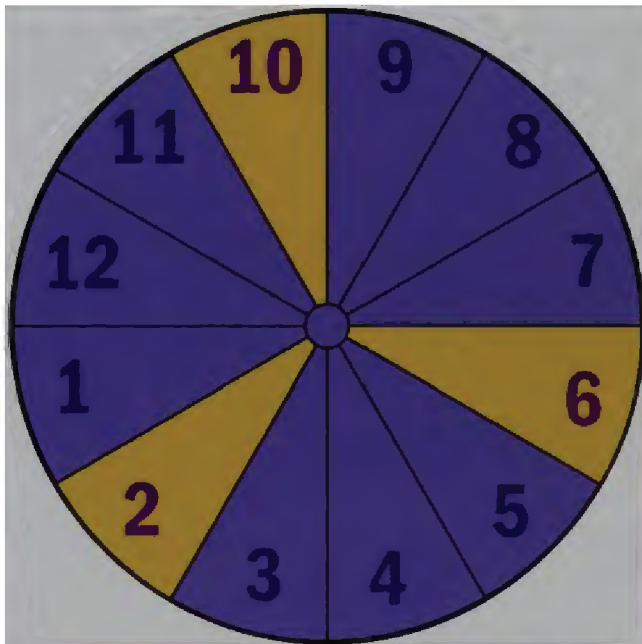
- The gifts of the South Node can be carried into the new North Node lifestyle, while the rest is left behind.
- Aspects and the house placement of the South Node hint at past lives.
- The aspects and house placement of the North Node help you plan your strategy as you evolve over time.
- A harmonious blend of South Node and North Node traits is a way to balance karma and reach a deeper level of soul completion.

# LIFE SPHERES

## Look to the houses for clues about career development

Some houses are directly related to work and finances, lending structure to our pursuit of career satisfaction and abundance. The 2nd House reveals our attitudes toward money as a reflection of self-worth, what defines the good life, and how we live our values. The 6th House has insight about the kind of working life we seek, and how we achieve productivity and balance in the daily routine. The 10th House is where

### *Work Houses*



- The 2nd House shows your capacity to build wealth and use your resources in a smart way.
  - The 6th House atmosphere determines the daily routine you favor, including working conditions.
- The 10th House can be a
- guide to long-range career planning.
  - The three work houses together influence your career, as a way to make a living in line with your values (2nd), in sync with your personal daily rhythm (6th), and aimed toward your highest aspirations (10th).

we seek out and follow the sustained path that turns us into experts in our fields.

Planets in these houses will be important clues about how you go about making a living. But each house represents a collage of themes that is energized by the sign on its cusp, and the planets and aspects that are placed there. If your dazzler, the Sun, is in the 5th House, for example, you'll

### *At Work*

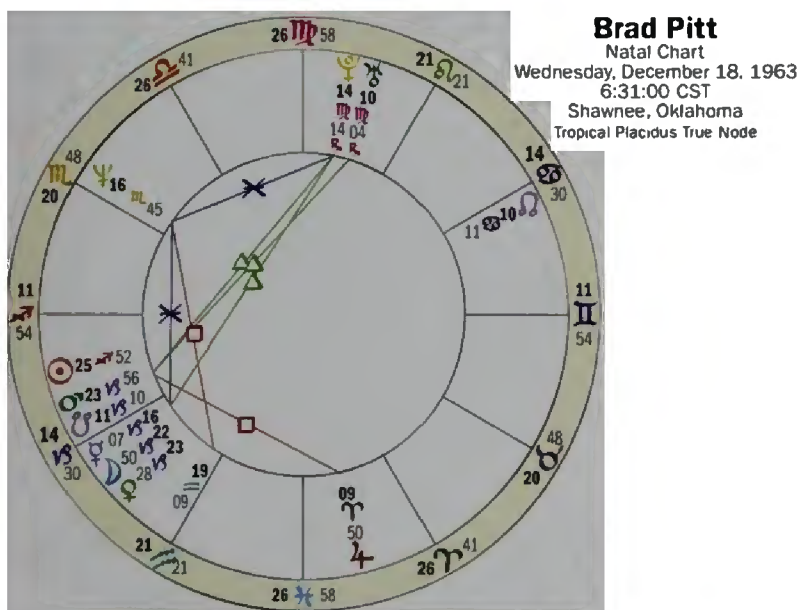
- A barista with a strong 1st House ends up at the front counter; the one with Mars in Virgo in the 6th is happier doing the detailed prep work behind the scenes.
  - The 6th House is about well-being, and how the work you choose affects your health.
- The sign, planetary ruler, and aspects to the 10th House reveal your likely internships and mentors.
- The position of your Sun shows the life sphere in which you shine.

have a particular affinity for fields that involve creativity or children—perhaps acting, or planning children’s parties. If Saturn supports your Sun, you’ll gain the discipline of this practical planet, and that increases your chance for steady progress. Your unique pathway will emerge from the intuitive blend of your entire chart and how you manage the potential it represents.

What fascinates us about high-achieving celebrities is that they seem to have made the most of their lives. The role models among them have reached their potential. Astrology is a tool that highlights what you already know: your strengths and weaknesses. The houses of the birth chart show the fields in play, but it’s up to each of us to cultivate our potential.

### Brad Pitt’s Chart

### Awards



- Brad Pitt’s chart shows the South Node in Capricorn and the North Node in Cancer, the sign of mother, home, and family.
- The South Node traits of self-control and worldly ambition are weighted by a cluster of planets in Capricorn: Mars, Mercury,

the Moon, and Venus.

This South Node and its close Mars conjunction suggest a past life of status, authority.

- By embracing fatherhood on a grand scale, Pitt moves toward the North Node destiny of nurturing the young.

- The position of Saturn shows where you’ve got potential for sustained effort and focus.
- The position of Jupiter draws a beeline to activities that bring the biggest return on your energy investment.

- The position of Mars shows where your energetic “battery pack” is situated. Its aspects determine how it’s directed.
- The position of Venus reveals what you love to do, and may point to creative gifts.

# HARD-WON ACHIEVEMENT

## Limitation as a force that shapes our character

The planet Saturn used to be considered the baddie of the birth chart. Nowadays astrologers give the Taskmaster its due, as the planet that helps us in a tough-love way. In the birth chart Saturn shows where you will face your most critical tests. Its position points to the life area where you'll learn the hard way, through devastating setbacks and frustrations.

### *Saturn*

- Saturn's mythic correlation is to the Greek god Kronos, a Father Time figure with sickle and long beard.

Saturn shows your relationship to authority, father figures, rivals, and strict teachers.

- Its placement in the chart is a window into your private frustrations, often ones you face entirely alone.
- Saturn is associated with heavy responsibility, sacrifice, duty, the status quo, and conservative attitudes.

Saturn's aim is to show you where you've reached a dead end, and where only a complete restructuring will set you on a new course. It's the planet of wisdom earned by facing those searing moments that eventually lead to humility. By bringing limits and restrictions, Saturn shows you how to make the most of your time. The Taskmaster rules time, in fact, and its placement in the chart indicates how well you

### *Discipline*

- In a world of possibilities, Saturn's limits help us rein in our focus and master tasks through patient effort over time.
- A Saturnian person may have difficult aspects to this planet or perhaps many planets in Capricorn, which is ruled by Saturn.
- A conflicted Saturn can squelch enthusiasm, leading to self-denial, loneliness, and depression.
- Saturn gives you the attitude that "life isn't fair" and, as the Lord of Karma, suggests that past wrongs are being righted in this life.

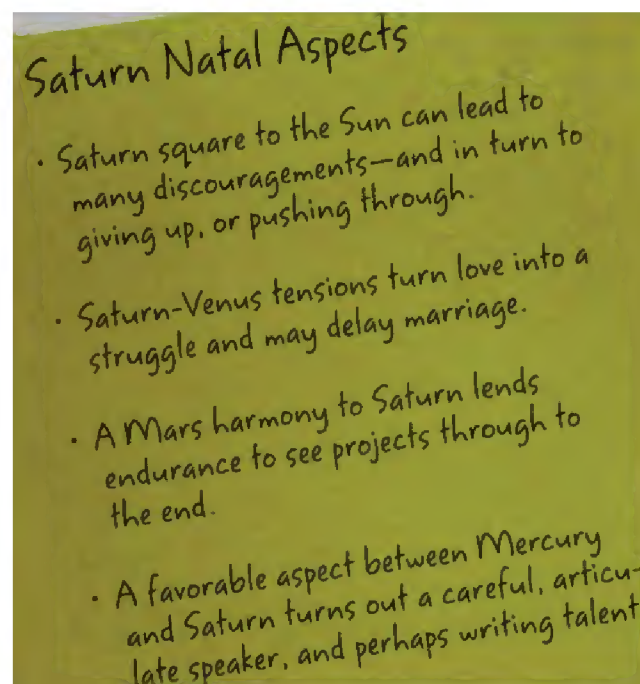
use it. It acts as a balancing weight to Jupiter's exuberance, helping you pursue your goals realistically.

The placement of Saturn shows where you're likely to be somewhat serious, and perhaps a bit defensive. You must coax out Saturn's hidden gifts by facing fears and overcoming obstacles in a purposeful way. Its house shows where you are super responsible and able to commit to sustained effort. But this is also where you're apt to go into lockdown mode, with rigid attitudes you must confront over time. When Saturn is wed to limiting beliefs, it can become a fortress behind

### *Discouragement*

- Saturn is the ruler of Capricorn and rules the 10th House, which deals with material success, maturity, and public status.
- Saturn is exalted in Libra, where its stern, responsible energies are matched with the values of justice, balance, and high ideals.
- In medical astrology Saturn is associated with the structure of the body—bones, teeth, and skin—as well the physical signs of aging.
- The ancients knew Saturn as the Greater Malefic, a bringer of misfortune and lack.

which you hide from change. That tendency to become entrenched in the subconscious can make this fortress's subsequent downfall shattering. If you hold so tightly to the familiar that it becomes a prison, the transits to Saturn will break you apart. The most famous of such events is Saturn's return, in the late 1920s with the Great Depression.





# NEPTUNE

## The part of us that knows we're living a dream

Neptune's mythical counterpart is the Greek god Poseidon, lord of the sea. It's an apt metaphor, because Neptune is the planet that dissolves the structures of Saturn and gives us a taste of the mystical reality beyond. It's known as the higher octave of Venus, where spiritual love reigns and we experience oneness with the cosmos.

In real life we swim in Neptune's waters when we're divinely

### *Neptune*

- Neptune is a transpersonal planet, since it takes us beyond the known and into the collective ocean where nothing is as it seems.
- Neptune shows us that "reality" is always changing form, which can be both liberating and incredibly disturbing.

It's meant to quicken the pace of our growth by casting and revealing delusions, denial, deception, but not without offering a path to redemption.

Neptune gives us visionary sight so we see beyond rigid mind-sets that keep us earthbound.

inspired, or filled with a soul longing to reunite with God. This is the province of fantasy, escapism, glamour, and illusion. Neptune's vibe is beyond the intellect, and its strange pull draws us inexplicably toward both dreams and delusions.

When we are free-floating in Neptune's ungrounded spaces, we're open to everything, not just the lofty ideal. Dancing with Neptune can include shadowy figures in

### *Enchantment*

Neptune's realm is fantasy and the kinds of entertainment that transport us out of the mundane.

- Its placement in the chart is a window into the imagination. Harmonious aspects are a sign of artistic potential.

- Neptune is associated with hunger to merge with the divine, and can denote a person with a mystical outlook.
- The desire to go beyond the physical has a dark side, and Neptune is linked to escapism through addiction, particularly to drugs and alcohol.

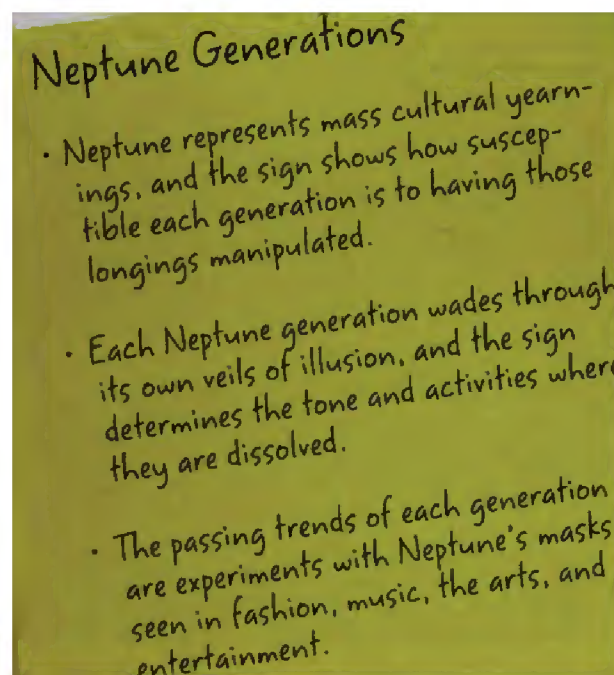
real life, those charming devils in disguise, as well as the night terrors of the psyche. In the birth chart this is where we experience the unfathomable depths of the collective dream landscape. Its house and aspects to other planets show the life area that's enchanted for us, full of potential for creativity and sublime experiences. It's also where we're likely to know dissolution of boundaries, which opens us up to passivity and being a victim.

The Neptunian desire to check out of the harsh mundane is the driving force behind many addictions and self-destructive

### *Image versus Reality*

- When you fall under the dark spell of Neptune, you're susceptible to being emotionally manipulated through symbols and images.
- A transit involving Neptune can wrap you in a fog of delusion; you wake up and realize that what seemed real was an illusion.
- Neptune's placement in the chart reveals sensitivity to those unseen currents that connect us with the divine.
- A strong Neptune creates a compassionate person, willing to make sacrifices for a higher ideal.

impulses. Those with Pisces planets or an unmoored Neptune are encouraged to find an artistic outlet for their imaginative gifts. For everyone, Neptune is a guide to the cosmically connected inner artist or mystic. It's where we hear voices and see things with our psychic vision. Neptune's inspirations are signals from a distant place that, through self-expression, become universal messages to the culture that receives them.



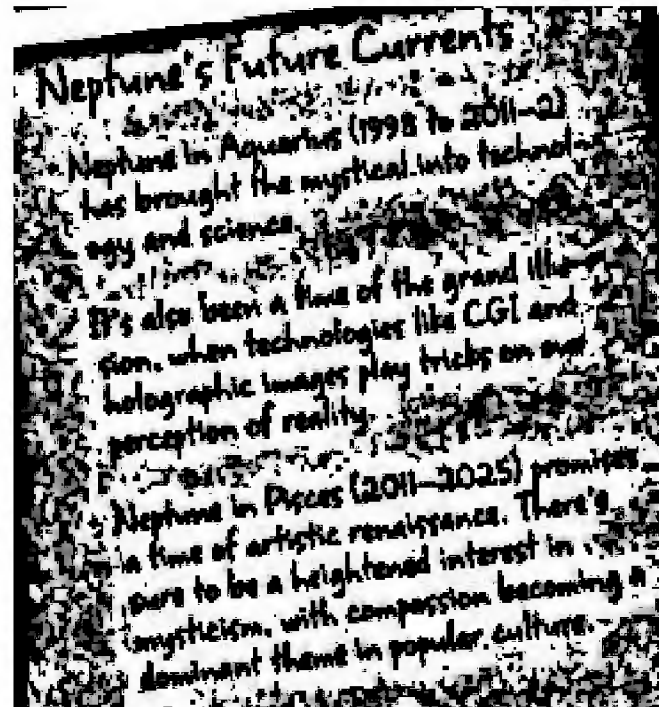
# SHARED DREAMS

The river of enchantment that's an imaginative undercurrent  
"real life"

In Neptune we see the collective myths that are mirrors for who we are. It gives credence to the saying that artists are modern shamans, working with symbols and tones from the universal dreamscape. What's taken from personal dreams may make it onto the big screen or become a popular anthem for a generation.

## *Peacemaker*

As a tool for Neptunian images, television, also known as tell-a-vision, has blurred the lines between fiction and truth, fantasy, and reality. Neptune in culture wears a mask of deception, and it's easy to see how ads and shows appeal to escapist fantasies and the desire to be part of something epic. At its best, Neptune in culture is a reach for the transcendent.



Neptune's role is to remind us that nothing is permanent. We will all dissolve back to the same ocean.

Its themes are transcendent, lifting us out of the boundaries of race, gender, and subjectivity.

- Neptune Is the mass

mesmerizer; it's in shared imagination of movies, fashion, and celebrities that absorb our attention.

Neptune influences the collective longing to be lifted up, and so rules the shaping of public consciousness—fantasy, role-playing video games, advertising.

an ideal that seems to come from an otherworldly place. The civil rights hero Martin Luther King Jr., whose natal Moon was in Neptune-ruled Pisces, spoke the immortal words, "I have a dream, to introduce a vision of what could be. When a society is entranced by an inspiration from Neptune, it's tapping into the awareness that we're all part of the same world soul. When Neptune's currents are just a fog that never dissipates, it's time to tune in to a different frequency.

### *Illusions*

- Neptune is about illusion and disillusion. Where one day we are buying into the dream, the next we see it as a fleeting mirage.
- Neptune's tools of artifice and masking are evident in political stagecraft; what's sold is often the facade to a much different reality.
- Neptune's transit through signs influences how society seeks to transcend the mundane, from art to drugs.
- It influences whatever captures the public imagination, from real-life scandals to blockbuster dramas on the big screen.

## YELLOW LIGHT

Neptune's danger is seen in times when mass hysteria crowds out reason. We've been living in foggy times when illusions are sold as truth. After September 11 a profound "moment of silence" enveloped the world, uniting hearts in shared human sorrow. That uplifting was Neptune's shining moment. That brief dissolution of boundaries is what it's like when Neptune's exquisite vibrations are activated.

### *Oneness*

- Neptune is moving into its own sign of Pisces beginning in 2011, heralding a new age of elevated consciousness and heart-centered culture.
- One of Neptune's themes is surrendering the ego Self, so that there's awareness of the divine within.
- Neptune in Pisces, a feminine sign, will draw out imaginative themes that show how everything is connected.
- Since Neptune influences what we idolize as a culture, it's sure to bring artists, dreamers, poets, and the like onto center stage.

# PLUTO

## Ready or not, here comes change from the inside out

The Greeks knew him as Hades, the Lord of the Underworld, who took mortals down for an ordeal that was also an initiation. In astrology Pluto is the transformer who takes us into the psychic depths and brings terrifying change. Pluto's force is a reminder that nothing lasts forever, as it ruthlessly takes away what we cling to the most.

In the birth chart Pluto's house and aspects are indicators

### *Pluto*

- Pluto is considered the higher octave of Mars, and embodies the force of destruction.
- Pluto's phase of destruction may be brutal, but it always leads to a rebirth.

In the birth chart Pluto guides us to our personal

shadows, where we experience power struggles, obsessive and compulsive traits, and extreme secrecy.

- Pluto's position is a reservoir of intensity, and this compressed raw force is experienced as dangerous until it is met and integrated.

of the shadow in our lives. The primal power there makes us afraid to explore it, since it would surely destroy our lives! That's why so often our Pluto issues are dangerously wound up and defended. Pluto in the birth chart is the locale of our personal underworld, loaded with obsessions, jealousies, and compulsions. Its fear of being exposed causes us to react aggressively when this core is threatened. When we try to

### *Prayer*

- Pluto rules Scorpio, and both are forces of soul healing, where light is brought into the shadows.
- Pluto exposes what's broken, toxic, and decaying, and "composts" it in the soul.

- Its sign is shared by an entire generation, so look to the house position for clues about where your most profound transformation is likely to take place.

Aspects to Pluto are intensifying; they serve as a bridge to the stirrings taking place in the collective.

run away from facing this intensity, Pluto's way is to dramatically force change whether we're ready or not. When we surrender to the purifying fire and are burned by the experience, it changes us forever.

It may seem harsh and unforgiving, but great soul discoveries are made on the other side of Pluto's annihilation. After every death experience comes the rebirth when our core essence is revealed.

## *Rebirth*

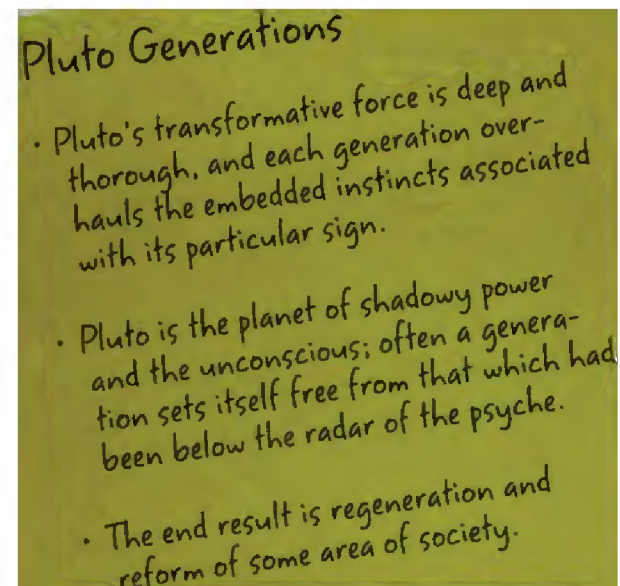
- Pluto's realm is the dark side of the psyche, where unconscious primal urges threaten to overtake our higher instincts.
- Where we find Pluto in the chart, we find what's taboo and subversive in our nature.

Facing Pluto requires courage, since there's often a descent involved, full of dangers and unseen forces.

- Emerging from a difficult Pluto initiation has been likened to the Phoenix rising out of the ashes.

## YELLOW LIGHT

When Pluto is activated in our lives, we sense a threat to our identity. It happens when there's a devastating loss that violates our sense of how life ought to be. We discover the truth in the adage "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger." When it transits, Pluto remakes the planet it touches by burning away what's not authentic.





# SOCIETY TRANSFORMED

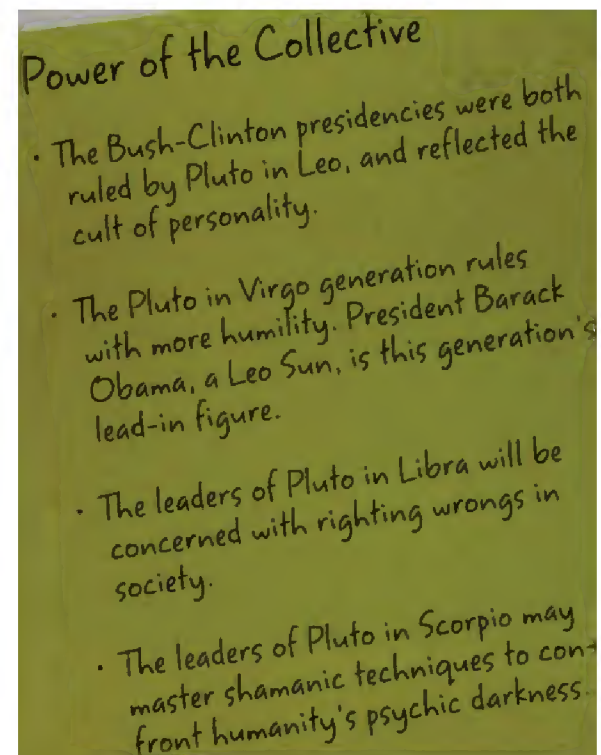
The force that shows that nothing and no one is above the (universal) laws

Pluto's movements through a sign should be studied with the long view in mind. The planet knocks us for a loop personally; likewise, it destroys and rebuilds society anew in areas associated with that sign. It can bring devastation and fears of annihilation that are experienced collectively. Pluto's pressure cooker will tend to bring out extremes in response

## *Real Change*

- Pluto is about power, and in Capricorn its focus is material resources; there will be continued attempts to concentrate wealth in the hands of the few.
- Pluto exposes the dangers of corruption. This includes unholy alliances of business and government.
- If there are global money masters in control of governments, this transit will expose them.
- A rebirth can bring ethics back to moneymaking and transform how goods are exchanged.

to the perceived threat. Pluto's journey into Capricorn, which will continue into 2023, is exposing the power of greed in our institutions. Capricorn rules big business, government, and patriarchal authority. Pluto finds what's hidden, and is exposing the underworld of finance and government. As the secret seeker, Pluto's probing eye will home in on things



like shadow governments, financiers of terror, and backroom deals. Since Pluto's controlling excesses are associated with fascism, we have to be willing to face the scourge of runaway global corporate power. Pluto asks us to have the courage to "follow the money." Eventually, those who have sold their souls for material riches will be brought down. Politicians that have become corrupted will also fall. The saving grace of Pluto's unforgiving nature is that it wrests power from evildoers in time. They can run, but they can't hide from Pluto.

### *The New Earth*

- Pluto is the great composer, working alchemical magic on waste, and turning it into something that feeds life. In Capricorn into the foreseeable future, Pluto's regenerative sights are set on the Earth itself. We must seek ways to coax back life by healing the soil and our soul. Pluto forces us to see what's become destructive and choose the path that sustains life.

- The attempted control of the Earth and its processes will be exposed, including weather modification programs.
- Capricorn is a sign with deep roots in the physical plane; during this Pluto transit, we will see many dramatic Earth changes.
- Pluto's cycle promises a rebirth for the Earth, when purifying fire (solar events) and water (flooding) create a new landscape.
- Capricorn is a feminine sign intimately bound to the Earth; we're sure to see a return to the value of sustainability.

# URANUS

## The instigator of life shocks that remove our blinders

The first of the slow-moving generational planets past Saturn is the illuminator Uranus. This is key to understanding the role it plays, since it's known to shatter forms and disrupt the status quo that Saturn represents. It's often mythically linked to Prometheus, who stole fire from the gods in order to cast ahead beyond known limits of knowledge.

Uranus is the flash of lightning that gives us momentary

### *Uranus*

- True to its wild card nature, Uranus was first discovered by an independent astronomer in 1781; this is why it's referred to as a modern planet.
- Uranus co-rules Aquarius with the order bringer Saturn; its radical changes become fixed in place.
- Uranus is the instigator of entirely new matrices of thought, and out of that come changes to society.
- Some Uranus themes are freedom, rebellion, technology, metaphysics, futuristic thinking, and consciousness.

higher sight. It's considered the higher octave of Mercury that allows for detached, panoramic vision. Uranus represents the mysterious link we have to the universal mind, and those electric moments when we're in sync with a higher plane. In the birth chart Uranus's house position shows the life area where rattling change occurs. We are shaken awake by a violent event, a sudden loss, or an abrupt ending.

### *Lightning*

- Uranus's aspects and house position are keys to your personal genius—the ways in which you're unconventional and experimental.
- Uranus tends to take us by surprise with sudden events that change everything; transits will give clues to the life area these involve.
- Look to Uranus in your birth chart for the area of abrupt endings and beginnings.
- Uranus reveals the field of experience where great awakenings can happen, often brought on by external forces beyond your control.

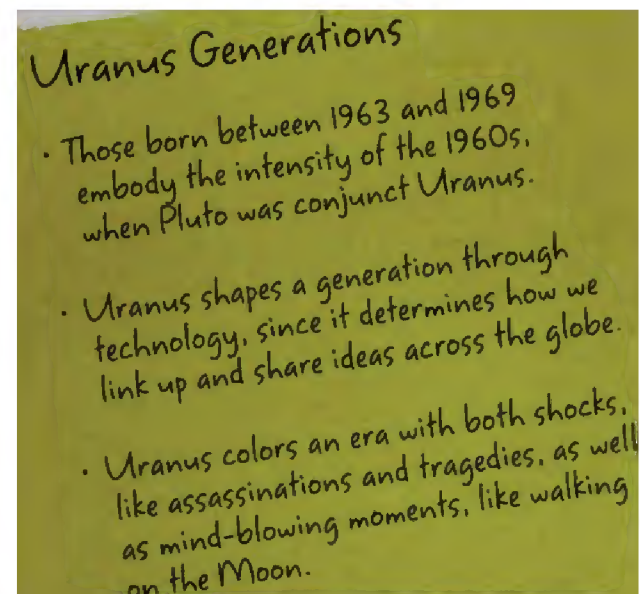
By its nature, the awakener Uranus seeks to startle us out of a familiar groove and reanimate the life force. It interrupts the stagnated program to bring an important message to change. If you're clinging to what's dead in your life, Uranus's bolts will seem cruel and shocking at first. Only later will true relief sink in, and the realization that you've been liberated from a self-created prison.

## *Revolution*

- Important turning points of life involve Uranus, whose shock waves are a reminder to get out and seize the day.
- Uranus shows our capacity to break from the status quo, even if that means being labeled weird, fringy, or eccentric.
- When Uranus turns on a light, we suddenly see how we've been restricted by Saturn's life structures.
- Uranus's force is electric and urgent. Indeed, it's known as the planet of breakthroughs.

## MAKE IT EASY

The house position of your Uranus is where you'll experience personal revolutions. The disruptions that occur here are challenges to your Saturn, and may seem devastating if you're too wed to the familiar. Uranus in your birth chart shows you where to expect the unexpected and reminds you to keep your mind open to change.



# AWAKENINGS

## The quantum leaps forward that put us on the evolutionary fast track

Just as Uranus strikes at the leading edge of our lives personally, so too does this planet hurl us collectively toward the future. It's present in those times of revolution, when the old social order is breaking down, and a new vision is emerging. Uranus invokes a spirit of rebellion that can ignite a movement. It's also evident in events that send

shockwaves across the culture, and stun us awake.

Uranian types, like many Aquarians, carry this spark. They are natural reformers that see how to provoke change, so that humanity as a whole keeps moving forward. Sometimes these forward-thinking individuals or groups meet with the resistance of Saturn, the authority that represents the old

### *Pluto and History*

### *Protest*

- The meeting of Pluto and Uranus in 1963–69 merged the forces of shattering and transformation.
- These two cosmic powerhouses met in mutable earth Virgo, a sign that sees nature and the body as an interdependent system.
- The Pluto-Uranus square of 2010–15 will be similarly charged, but in cardinal signs Capricorn and Aries.
- When cardinal signs form a Grand Cross starting in summer 2010, we're heading into a historic time when true change surges up from within society as a whole.
- The intense years ahead will involve dueling paradigms. Generational planets in cardinal signs favors the side that moves with the currents of progress.
- As Pluto breaks down what we've known, Uranus flashes visions of a possible future.
- When outer planets are in aspect, we're more likely to be swept up in the enveloping drama of our times.
- Many alive may feel a sense of personal mission that is bound to the epic upheavals of society.

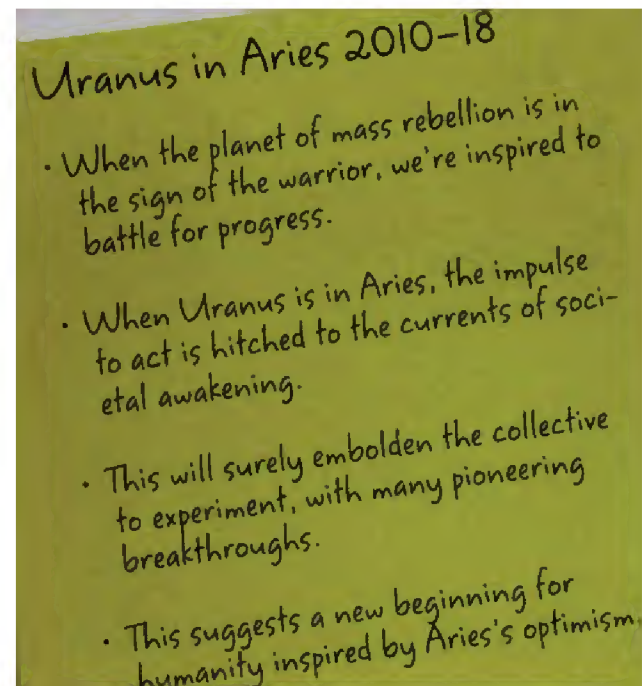
ways of doing things. Key moments in history, like the late 1960s, and the current period into 2010, mirror a showdown between these two planets.

The stimulation of Uranus has an unstoppable momentum, however, and has the force to bust through Saturn's defenses. The shock of the new can come into a society in a violent way, with protests and government upheavals that seem to turn the world upside down. But Uranus as change-agent is also seen in visionary leaders who electrify the masses, and alert them to possibilities just coming into view.

### *Radical Faith*

- Since Uranus's jolts seem to defy cause and effect, it reminds us that some "whys" of the universe have no answers.
- Uranus brings chaos and devastations out of the blue; it's a faith-building phenomenon, since it forces us to accept that much is out of our control.
- The lessons of Uranus are about letting go of the known to move into uncharted territory.
- Uranus brings dizzying events, the meaning of which takes time to integrate.

- Uranus's power is dangerous to those threatened by change. The figures in history who dared to reach into the future have often paid the ultimate price. Among them was Aquarian Abe Lincoln, who dared to free the slaves and acknowledge them as humans with inherent rights and value.
- Uranus is behind such flashpoints in history that mark evolutionary progress.





# TRINES

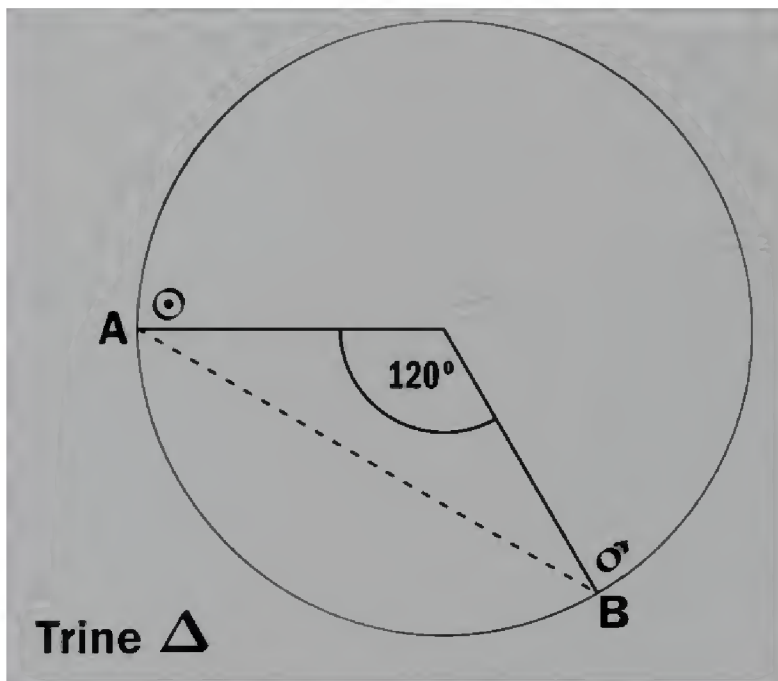
A natural current between two planets that suggests ease and support

Aspects are the angles that planets form to one another in the birth chart. Since planets are part of your energetic blueprint, these angles are like the structure of that matrix. When planets are in harmony, there is an easy flow. The trine is considered the most favorable aspect, because planets are working together in a smooth way. It's usually between planets of

the same element. If your Mercury is in Aries and your Saturn is in Leo, the two are like teammates. In this case the quick flashes of perception of fiery Mercury are shaped and guided toward creative expression with the discipline of Saturn.

Think of trines as the gifts and talents that you can use to fulfill your life potential. They are your natural resources, like

## *Trine*



## *Natural Talents*

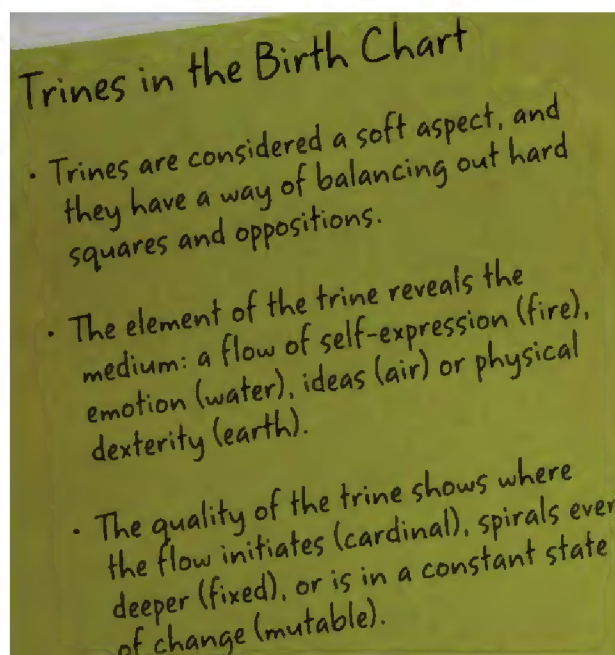
- A trine occurs when two planets are 120 degrees from each other on the birth chart.
- A birth chart represents a trine with a line; a triangle is used as the glyph.
- Trines are usually between zodiac signs of the same element (fire, water, earth, and air).
- A trine that's within a 5-degree orb (range) is considered in play.
- A trine in a chart is a key to effortless, natural talent that's always there but has to be developed to its fullest potential.
- The trine is a gift, setting up an easy flow between the two planets so they are perfect partners.
- The trines in a chart point to luck, wealth, well-being, happiness, and strengths of character.
- Trines are feel-good aspects that can be taken for granted or become a channel to avoid dealing with the hard stuff.

a God-given ability to put people at ease or attract friends with your warmth. A Sun-Jupiter trine, for example, gives you the Midas touch. But coasting on the easy path of trines can become too much of a good thing. The Venus-Sun trine might win you the audition, but you'll have to work with tensions to make sure the character you're playing is fully realized. Trines should be developed to the fullest against other aspects in the birth chart.

## YELLOW LIGHT

It's a truism that if life is too easy, we can miss the character building that only comes from overcoming challenges. A trine can become a convenient escape route away from friction. Look to the tensions that form to a trine to see its dynamics. Find ways to take your trine out of the comfort zone, with healthy challenges that reward you with growth.

### *Natural Grace*



- When there are squares to a trine, this brings creative energy into play.
- The trines are areas where you're naturally in sync. Consciously drawing on these gifts is a way to build confidence.
- To understand a trine as a complementary duo, look to the functions of the planets involved.
- When fully engaged, trines support you in the area they activate. They're energetic currents of success.

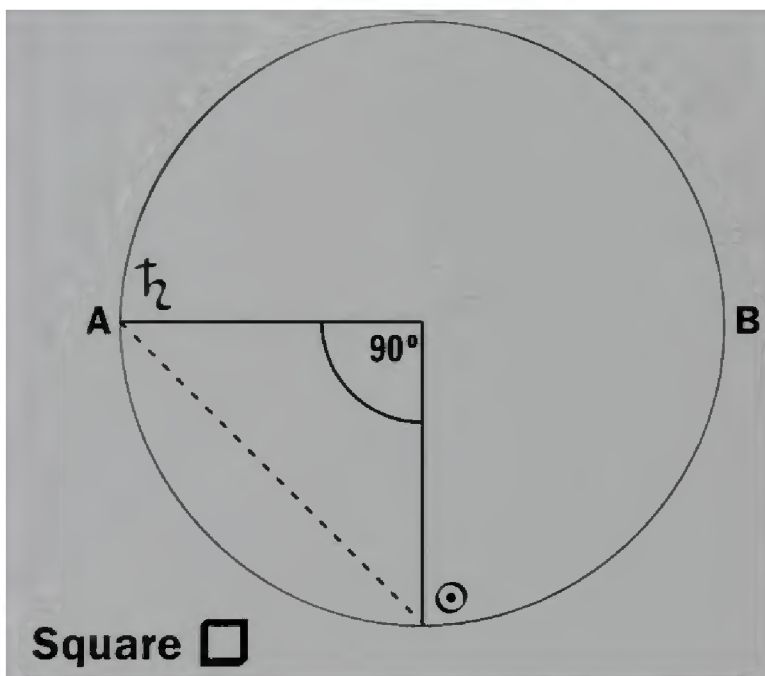
# SQUARES

These natural stress points in the chart provoke, test, and throw up obstacles

When two planets meet in a tense face-off, something has to give! In the birth chart this occurs with squares, an aspect that often comes with a sense of struggle, conflict, or confrontation. The planets are just different, and the meeting generates a lot of heat and action.

Dealing with a square means developing a third dynamic

## *Square*



- The square is an aspect between planets that are 90 degrees apart.
- Squares occur between planets in zodiac signs of the same quality (cardinal, fixed, mutable), and this tension throws sparks.
- Two planets in a square create pressure to act, where something has to give!
- The restlessness of squares is a motivating force, since it puts us on edge, with a need to work it out.
- Squares are generators of raw energy, and they're areas where you may overdo it or hold back from acting at all.
- The squares in a birth chart can become areas of fear until you learn to release the force in a way that's not explosive.
- Squares teach you how to modulate your own energy. In doing so you build trust in yourself.
- When you've locked horns with another, it's likely because this aspect is at play between planets.

that blends the two. So even though the square is considered a hard aspect, and not fun, it's transformative since it provokes growth. These are the major life lessons that dog us time and time again. When we're young, they are at their most raw and potent, since it takes time to integrate them. How many awkward acts or overreactions are due to squares?

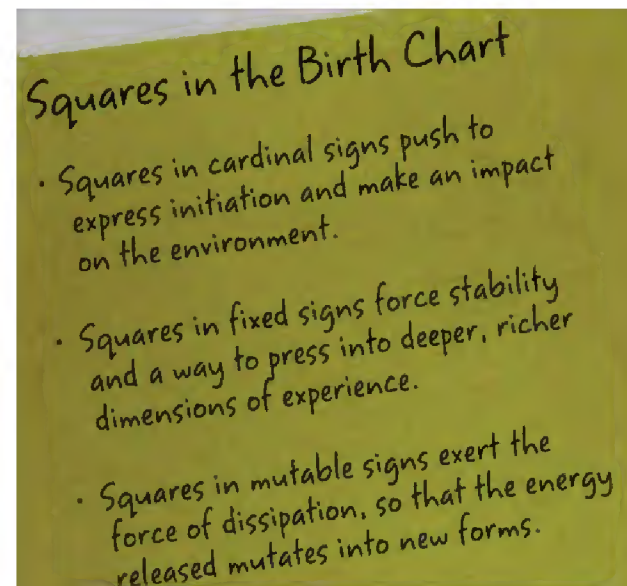
## *Friction*

Through a process of trial and error, we learn how to channel that tension in productive ways. But it's in the shaping of what's unwieldy that we find our hard-won sense of self.

The squares are associated with the planet Saturn, since the built-in conflict generates fear. It often takes courage to manage these very different planetary energies and strike a balance. As we get older, the resolution of the squares settles into our being as strength of character.

## *Sculpting*

The squares occur between signs of the same quality, as in cardinal, fixed, or mutable. The manner of expression is conflicting, and that's seen with the elements in play. But the underlying goal, seen with the quality, is the same, and that's a basis for understanding the square.



- Unlike trines, which are natural gifts, you must make squares your own creation over time.
- A difficult square requires patience and self-forgiveness, since its lessons are only learned through trial and error.
- The friction of the square forces its way into your behavior and can be disruptive until the kinks are worked out.
- Squares add exciting tension, and when mastered they can be a powerful dynamic that propels us forward.

# CONJUNCTIONS

Two planetary energies are combined to heighten the pair into one powerful dynamic

When planets are so close that they act in instinctual unity, this is known as a conjunction. The ancient Greeks considered this more than an aspect, and saw it as of supreme importance in a birth chart. It brings two entities together and merges their roles, greatly influencing a person's nature. The blended union is such a force in the birth chart that it

## *Conjunction*

blurs the identity of the individual planets involved. That planet is folded into another, and the two are a working unit. Take note of conjunctions as you read a chart; they're keys to understanding the dominant themes.

A conjunction is considered neutral, since it depends so much on the planets involved. All conjunctions that involve

## *Amplification*

## Conjunction ♂

- A conjunction aspect is between two planets that are 0 to 5 degrees apart in orb (range).
- Often they're planets in the same sign, but not always.
- The conjunction is a concentration of the energy of that sign, together with the merged functions of the two planets involved.
- It's usually a beneficial aspect, though this depends on which planets are paired up.

Any conjunction to the Sun makes the planet in question a looming presence that's absorbed into the general character.

Mercury's conjunctions give a voice to the planets it touches.

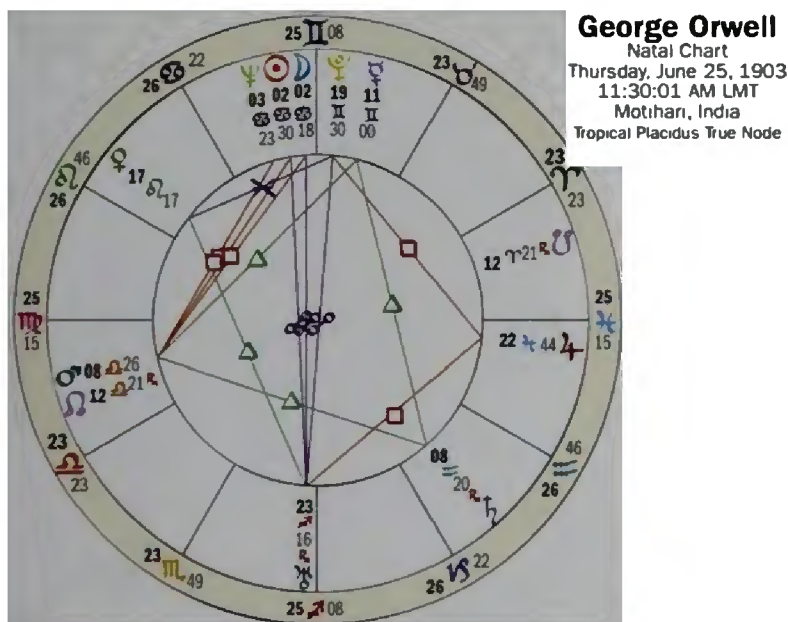
When Venus is conjunct to other personal planets, it adds grace and style, and possibly artistic ability.

- Mars revs up any planet it conjuncts, boosting vitality and the will to act.

the personal planets (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars) are biggies. Often it's a defining anchor that's experienced as an embedded part of the person.

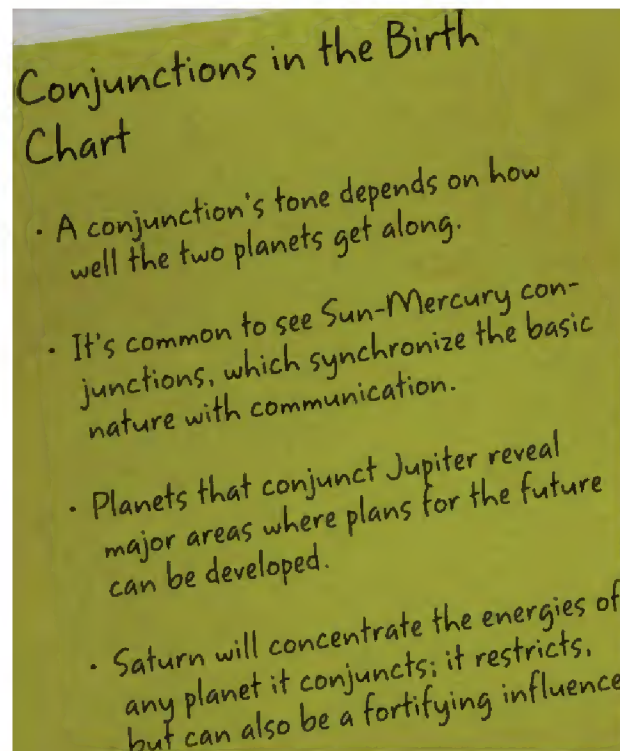
For example, a Moon-Saturn conjunction will put a cap on emotion, given Saturn's restricting influence. You'll have to overcome great fear to bridge a natural sense of loneliness. On the other hand, if the Moon is conjunct the expander Jupiter, those same soul stirrings are naturally outward-bound. To understand a conjunction, look to the symbolic archetype of the planets, as well as the signs and house placement.

### George Orwell's Chart



- In the chart of George Orwell, author of *1984*, we see a triple conjunction of the Sun, Moon, and Neptune in Cancer.
- In this stellium or star cluster, imagination reigns supreme as Neptune joins forces with the two luminaries that shape basic character.
- Neptune aligns Orwell's creative imagination with the collective soul, explaining why his dystopian novel has impressed itself on society.
- This superplanet at the MC turned his imaginative work into a touchstone for the age of surveillance.

- With a conjunction, planets are often in the same sign, but not always. When there are three or more planets in one sign, it's called a stellium. When there are many planets in one sign, those traits will be sharpened, focused, and dominant. Many planets in a cluster, seen in its particular house, indicate a major life theme.





# OPPOSITIONS

To dance with Other, only to find it's the balancing part of Self

When two planets are directly across from each other on the wheel, they are in opposition. This aspect is very challenging, since the energies provoke the sensation of being pulled in two directions. One side is usually favored, while the other is projected onto situations and people. That's why it takes a lifetime to reconcile oppositions in the birth chart.

The opposition pits two energies against each other, with

## *Opposition*

life situations coming up that reflect one side back to you again and again. It's the stretching of an entity to meet its polarity, and like a taut rubber band sometimes it snaps in one direction. If you fear one expression, you'll likely find that reflected back from the world. When the traits are seen as aspects of the self, they can be integrated. The planets involved are of the same quality, so the basic goal is the same.

## *Tug-of-War*

## Opposition

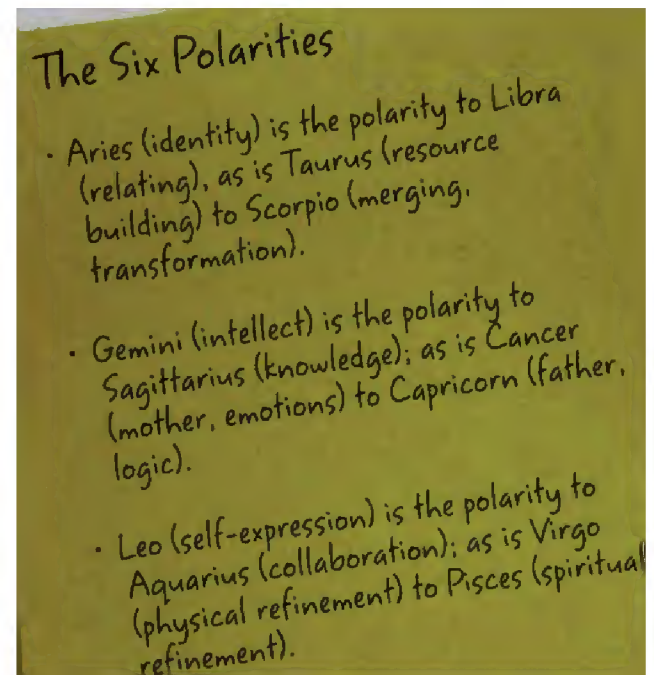
- An opposition is the aspect between two signs at a 180-degree angle.
- It occurs between opposing Zodiac signs, which are often in the same quality.
- The square is considered a hard aspect, and can bring frustration and obstacles.
- Its lessons are about learning to balance two opposing sides of our nature.
- The opposition is a contradiction in your nature, and you may favor one side over the other.
- A theme emerges in a chart when there are many oppositions along the same polarity.
- Sometimes we "project" the opposing qualities onto other people so we can play out the aspect with them.
- If you find yourself in the same conflicts again and again, look to the oppositions for insight into a possible conflict within the psyche.

For the cardinal polarity, it's about identity and acting on the environment. The fixed polarity is seeking depth of purpose and self-worth. The mutable polarity is about adapting to life by being flexible. Still, the opposing elements set up a dynamic that's all about contradictions. It's not as intense as the square, but can seem confounding and irreconcilable. The key is giving each equal expression and achieving some sense of balance.

## Balance

- To engage with the opposition often means a showdown with an external force.
- These situations force you to learn to compromise, and see a situation from another perspective.
- You find equilibrium when you learn to draw on the strengths of both planets.
- It's helpful to find activities in which both traits can be expressed, developed.

An opposition is the current between two polarities, and both are necessary to get a unique charge. For example, an Aries Sun needs to provoke, but a Libra Moon in opposition adds an equally powerful need for a balanced emotional anchor. It's difficult to reconcile, but over time respect for the dynamics leads to a compromise that doesn't dilute one in favor of the other.



# MINOR ASPECTS

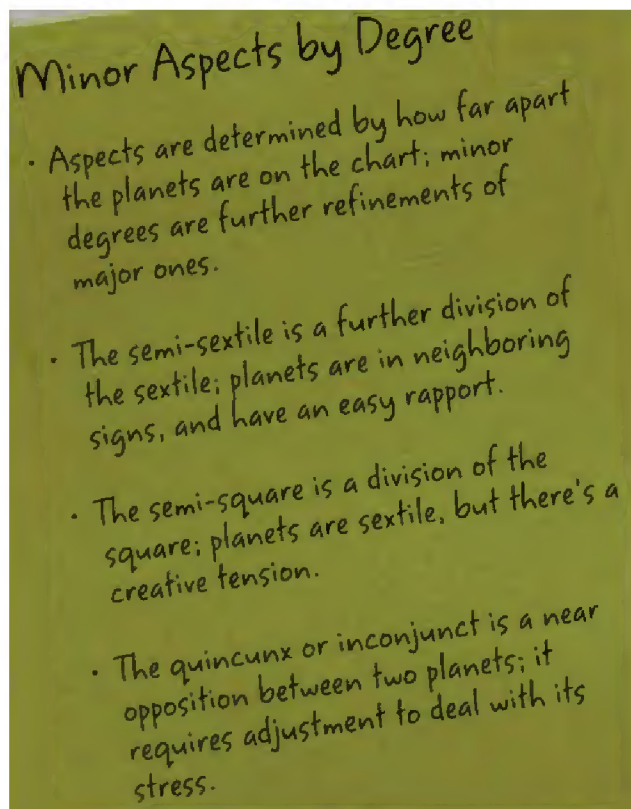
The subtle angles that fill out the picture of harmony and tension

The Greeks didn't bother with minor aspects, and it's wise to look first at the major ones, since they have the most potency in a birth chart. But as you move forward in your study of astrology, the minor aspects are tools to refine your interpretation. They are further divisions of the aspects that carve up the wheel. For example, a sextile is often grouped with major aspects, and denotes planets that are 60 degrees apart. Its

effect is similar to the trine, but not as strongly felt. But it will reinforce the dynamic of what's in play.

If you've got a Sun-Saturn sextile to Mercury, then the three are engaged in a harmony that is favorable for things like mental concentration and a disciplined speaking style. When the square is divided, it becomes a 45-degree semi-square between planets. Sometimes this is called a hidden square,

## *Refining the Picture*

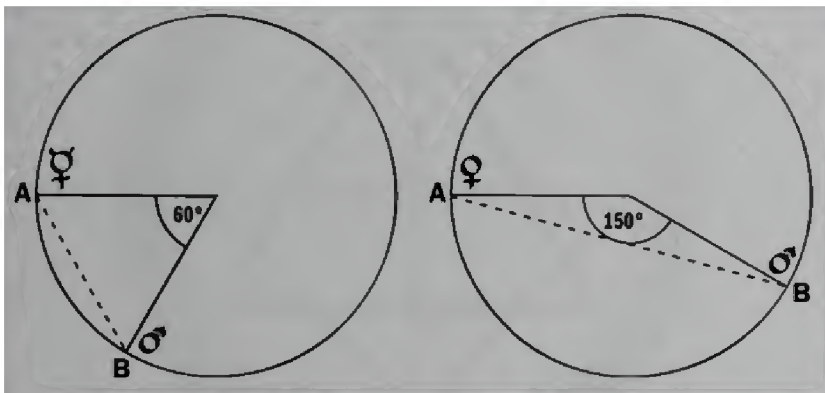


- Once you get a handle on the major themes of a chart, the minor aspects provide more insight.
- In classical astrology, aspects are understood as harmonics. Like musical notes, they hit different tones in the birth chart.
- Ptolemy of ancient Greece laid out the major harmonics in his book *Tetrabiblos*.
- The major aspects are the conjunction, opposition, trine, square, and sextile; all other aspects are considered minor.

since it evokes similar frustrations, but without being as in-your-face as the square. It's another dimension to be aware of, with tension that can only be resolved with patience and flexibility. If the major aspects are the broad strokes, then these minor aspects add the shading and nuance.

When looking at minor aspects, astrologers allow a much smaller orb of influence (the actual degree of the angular relationship). The effects are so subtle that some minor aspects within a 1-degree range are considered players in a chart. The angles this forms to major aspects will also be a factor in determining its importance.

### Minor Aspects



**Sextile** ✕

**Quincunx** ⚡

- The sextile is considered a major "soft" aspect that activates a natural working flow between planets.
- The semi-sextile is a harmonious aspect whose effect is not as strong as the sextile or trine.
- The semi-square is a tense aspect similar to the square, but not as potent.
- A quincunx is a near opposition. It sets up an awkward dance that takes conscious effort to work out.
- Since minor aspects are not as strong, the degree of orb allowed is lower than with the major aspects.
- Minor aspects that involve the Sun and Moon are worth checking out, because they shape the character.
- The quincunx, or inconjunct, is often used in interpretation; it's a point in the chart where adjustment has to be made.
- The minor aspects add strength to the energetic matrices that are already in play.

# ASPECT PATTERNS

When angles form a design structure that has harmonic resonance

Sometimes aspects form patterns that stand out in the chart, and these are matrices of energy worth noting. The patterns involve at least three planets, but in rare cases might involve the whole chart.

A stellium is a close group of planets in the same sign that act as one big star cluster, called by some a superplanet. Some are conjunct, but the stellium allows for a wider orb

## *T-Square*



### T-Square

- The T-square is an opposition between two planets that are both in a square to a third.
- A key to dealing with the oppositional tension of the T-square is found in the planet that is squaring both sides.
- To find focus for the T-square, look to the area (especially planets) across from the planet that forms the 90-degree square.
- Though it's considered challenging, many driven, successful people have this tension in their charts.

across the degrees of that sign. The planets merge forces, and the lessons of that sign are heightened in the chart.

A transiting planet will engage the entire aspect pattern, intensifying its effect. A grand trine links three planets in the same element, so that they act as a harmonious whole. In sacred geometry the triangle conveys "pure being," and in astrology the grand trine is considered a cosmic gift. An

## *Grand Trine*



### Grand Trine

- The grand trine is a harmonious matrix between three planets, often in the same element.
- The element of the grand trine is the key to interpretation.
- A fire grand trine is expressive, active; an earth grand trine is grounded and focused on material progress.
- An air grand trine is social and intellectual; a water grand trine is intuitive, emotional.



example would be a chart with the Sun in Capricorn, Moon in Virgo, and Mars in Taurus. Here we see an ease of flow in the earth element, and Mars's will to act is in perfect harmony with the basic nature (Sun) and emotional instincts (Moon). When Pluto transits Capricorn, for instance, and ignites one planet, the whole grand trine will be lit up.

- Life is easier with a grand trine, and sometimes this makes people passive and lackadaisical with their good fortune. A fourth planet in opposition to any one of the others in a trine forms a kite. This shows that tension is a motivating factor. Other patterns, like the T-square, the grand cross, and the mystic rectangle, involve squares and oppositions.

### *Grand Cross*



### **Grand Cross**

- A grand cross is formed by two sets of oppositions that square each other.
- This is a tense pattern to live with, requiring enormous strength of character to channel productively.
- A key to interpretation is looking at the quality (cardinal, fixed, mutable) of the planets in opposition.
- The squares create friction and provocation, while the oppositions constantly seek some kind of equilibrium.

### *Mystic Rectangle*



### **Mystic Rectangle**

- The rare mystic rectangle has two oppositions sextile to each other; outer trines complete the box.
- The planets in play will be in either masculine signs (fire, air) or feminine signs (water, earth).
- Cultivating activities that tap into the energy of the trines and sextiles is a way to engage this entire matrix of energy.
- When the oppositions are reconciled, the mystic rectangle works together as a unified whole.



# SOLAR RETURN

Your birthday as a time of reflection and wishes for “many happy returns”

One way to gauge future trends is to take a look at returns. All the fast-moving inner planets make returns to where they were at the time of your birth. These transits are like getting a progress report on how you're handling that planet's function in the birth chart. For example, when Jupiter conjuncts your own natal Jupiter, you'll get a boost of serendipity and

## *Birthday*

opportunities galore. Each year your birthday is a chance to reflect on the year past and set goals for the year ahead. The Sun's return has a vitalizing effect that strengthens our sense of self. To get a predictive read on the year ahead, you can create a “birthday horoscope” using the time when your Sun hits its exact natal degree.

## *Solar Return Chart*

- The Sun in your sign around your birthday lights you up and brings clarity about how radiantly you're shining year-round.
- Many people do some soul searching during the solar return—a kind of personal year-in-review.
- Your solar return chart lays out themes, including opportunities to look out for, as well as possible challenges.
- Major Web sites like astro.com offer solar return charts. Or you can cast one yourself using an ephemeris.
- An astrologer can find themes for the year and help you focus on your true goals.
- Planets at the angles of the chart are important, as they signify which way you're pointed.
- Any aspect patterns in the solar return chart show dynamics that you're likely to meet in the coming year.
- It's a big deal when the Sun moves into a new house or sign. This represents a sea change in the expression of your nature.

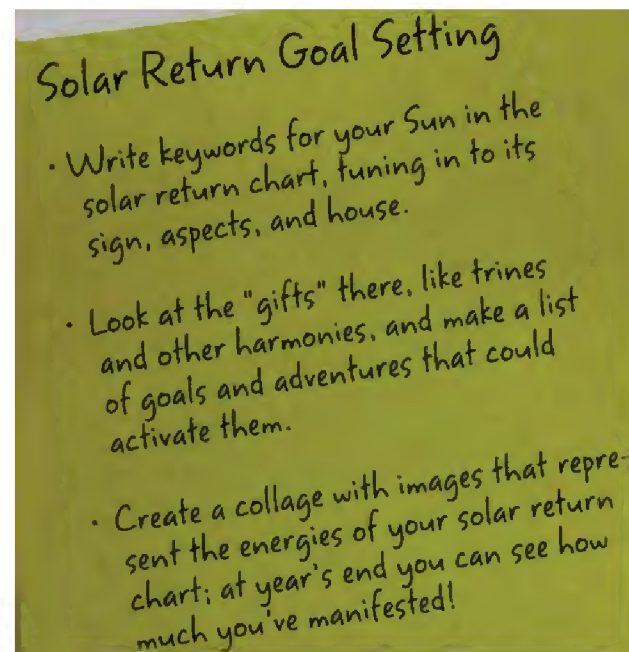
You can use your current location to cast the chart, since that is your present position on Earth. The chart's Ascendant will foretell the mood of your personality, while planets on angles and in houses will point to the year's themes. The aspects to the Sun in your solar return chart show channels for your meeting what lies ahead. If Venus is harmoniously Aspecting your solar return Sun, for example, you can enjoy heightened joie de vivre and love connections.

### *Solar Return Activities*

- The clarity of the solar return makes it a good time to prioritize goals so they're in sync with your life path.
- At the Sun's return you are most "yourself" and reminded of what's really important to you.
- A solar return chart shows whether it's a year for new initiatives, shoring up the foundation, or breaking out of outdated ways of living.
- The Ascendant rising on your solar return chart colors your personality for the year ahead.

## MAKE IT EASY

- The lunar return chart can be cast each month. to do so, use the degree of your Moon sign. This is a way to look at possible trends every month. The solar return chart is thought to be in play for the next year, while the lunar return chart is for just the month ahead.
- -



# SATURN RETURN

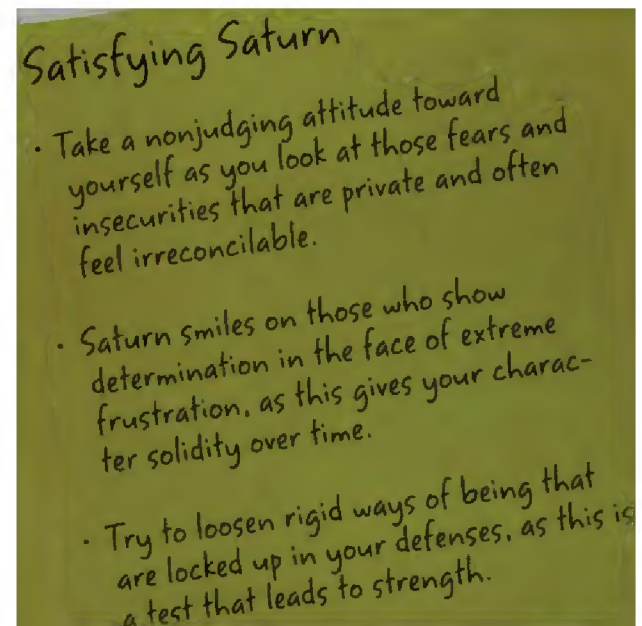
A time of testing, when the foundation may have to be rebuilt from the ground up

Turning 30 is a major life milestone, and it's mirrored astrologically by the oft-dreaded Saturn return. When Saturn first orbits back to its place in your natal chart, it's time to grow up and get real. So often we float through our 20s, allowing life to simply unfold, and never really take charge. The dreams that are merely impressions in our psyche need our effort to

make them real. This important turning point is a wake-up call from destiny.

Saturn's role is to intensify our insecurities, self-limiting behaviors, and so on, with severe tests that rattle the cage of our defenses. These crises show you whether you're on the right path or not. Saturn is about life structure and

## *Saturn*



Saturn reminds you of your mortality, and is associated with the wisdom and circumspection of age.

When you're young, your life is a blank canvas, Saturn's turning points tell you when it's time to let go of dreams that'll never happen.

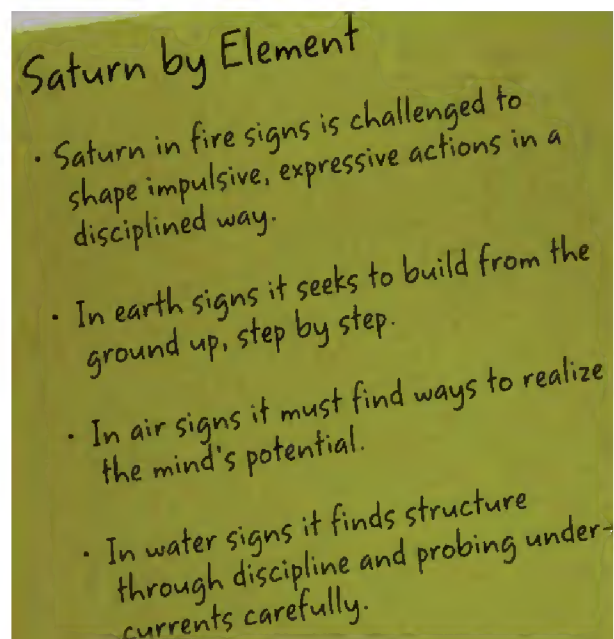
- Some might say Saturn humiliates, since it harshly shows limits. And yet that's often the prelude to humility and a true assessment of who you are.
- Saturn's specialty is bringing grandiosity down to earth, and sometimes that's a very hard fall.

limitations, and hitting 30 is a rude awakening to mortality.

Saturn's message is to seize the day, since time marches on, and you've got things to do! Sometimes Saturn's extreme makeover means the end of a marriage or career, if they're not right for the long term. For a time life can seem bleak, since much is being broken down to make room for the new. But there's light at the end of Saturn's maturation tunnel. It's the wisdom that comes from facing life's harsh realities, and emerging with a more grounded vision of your potential.

## *Growing Up*

- Saturn's archetype is the strict parent or teacher, and the transition to true maturity means taking on that role for ourselves.
- Look to Saturn's sign, house, and aspects to see how you manage your time and frustrations.
- Saturn's return is the time to turn abstract dreams into reality. Finding your footing is often painful.
- This lasts two or more years, out of which comes a new foundation; the second Saturn return happens in the late 50s through the early 60s.



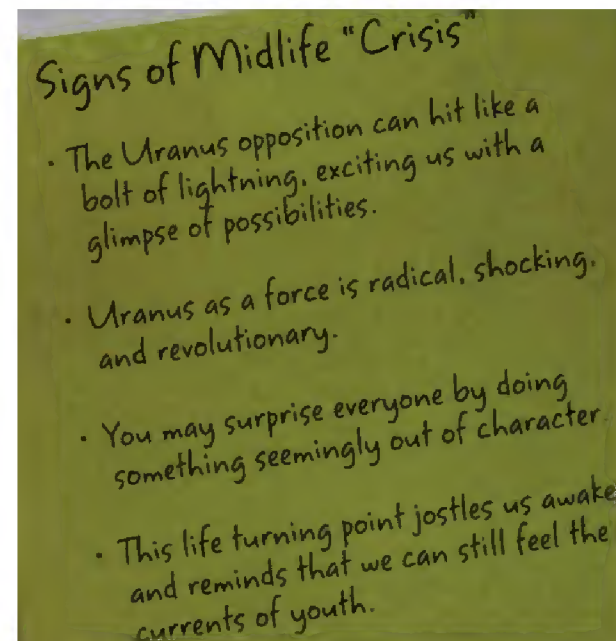
# MIDLIFE OPPORTUNITIES

The realization of time running out as inspiration to realign our lives

What we know as the midlife crisis can be tracked by looking at major transits of the outer planets at this time. The most talked about is the Uranus opposition, when the planet of liberation is in direct opposition to your natal Uranus. It happens around the 40-year mark. It's a transit that brings on the restless desire to break free, archetypically portrayed by a man leaving his marriage to run off with a nubile young thing.

## *Renewed Vitality*

The planet Uranus has an electric, surgelike feel, and its transits create a sense of urgency. There's a loosening of what's been holding us in, and a sudden liberation from some of the restrictions. A whole world of possibility opens, and buried dreams rush to the surface. Since you are no longer young, the revelations of Uranus often unleash a deep feeling of regret and loss. You have to grieve the un-lived aspects of the



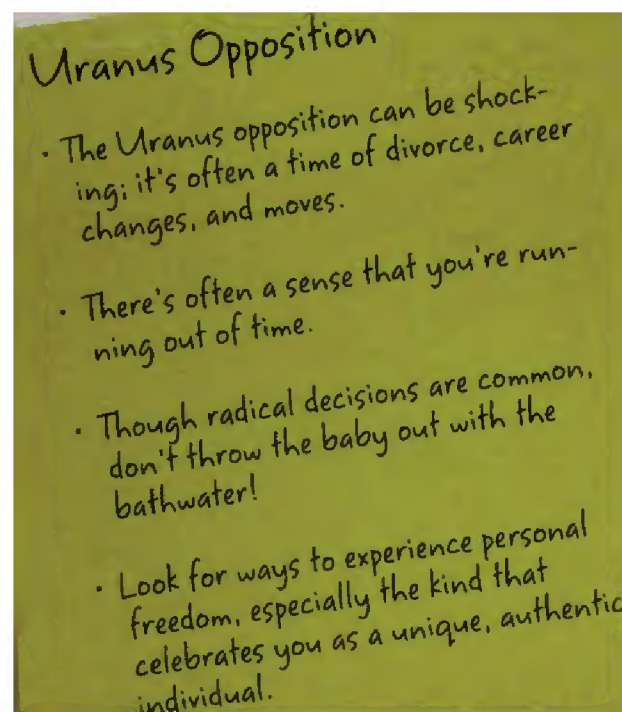
- Midlife often brings a sense of restlessness to try new things, and this creates momentum.
- Since aging is involved, midlife heightens the urge to feel young again, and this inspires a notable recommitment to health or exercise.
- The Uranus opposition intensifies a need for freedom, which is why people are known to bust out and do wild and crazy things!
- It's a great time to reignite a longtime passion—one that makes you feel alive.

self and let some of the dreams of youth die. It's paradoxical, because at the same time you are set free to claim these dreams with a seasoned perspective. At 40 you realize you're not going to be a famous rock star. But that unlocked soul yearning can guide you to becoming a musician after all.

## *Breaking Free*

- In midlife we experience an emphasis on what is young and promises quantum leaps of mind, body, and spirit.
- It's an excellent time to try something you've always wanted to, whether it's a class, travel, or learning to belly dance!
- You're drawn to those with open minds and hearts, which means that this is a good time to make new friends.
- Look to Uranus's house position for clues about the life situations in which all this upheaval is likely to play out.

- The shattering of Uranus transits allow you to hear the cry of the unique self. You see where you've sold your soul for security or acclaim. It's tempting to make radical changes. But it takes time to figure out how to satisfy the newly liberated self. When all goes well, you emerge ready to commit wholeheartedly to the rest of life.





# PROGRESSED CHART

A way to see themes in play as your chart is “aged” with the years

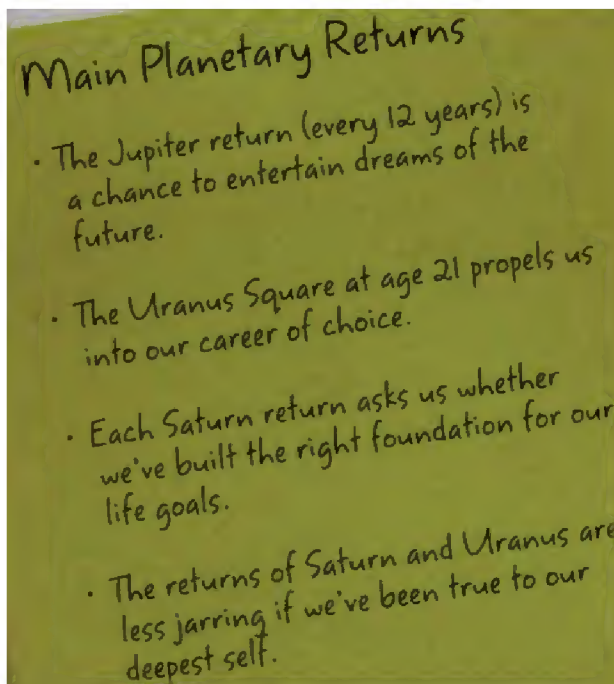
One fascinating way to look at trends in your life is to take a look at what astrologers call secondary progressions. Your natal chart is fixed in time, as the moment and place on Earth you were born. The predictive hints of astrology come from looking at transits, which show your engagement with life. Progressions, however, signify how you're evolving within.

The progressed chart shows a change in life themes over

time. It's based on the premise that one day is equal to one year of your life, so if you're 41, you'll create a chart for 41 days after your birthday. Your Sun will change signs about three times, and these mark sea changes in how you express your basic nature. Your Moon will move quickly around the signs and houses, and is considered a path of your soul's maturity.

As your personal planets (Sun, Moon, Venus, and Mars)

## *Life Turning Points*



- Use the powerful times at the new and full Moons to make the most of an important return or transit.
- Being aware of an approaching return helps you go into it with your eyes open, and less likely to passively react to events.

The progressed chart is a symbolic way of seeing current themes; it's compared with the natal chart.

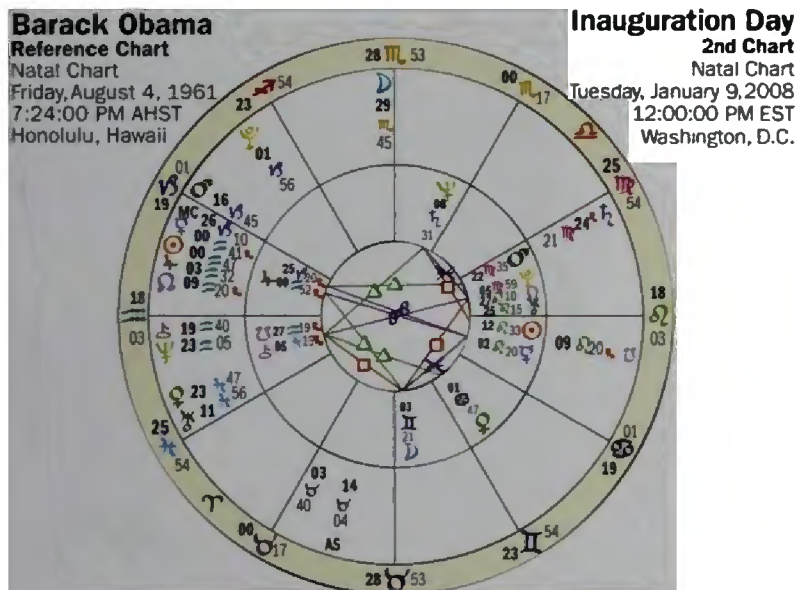
Astrologers use the progressed chart, along with transits to get the lowdown on what's happening.

move into different signs and houses, they activate new potentials or challenges. It's also valuable to note the aspects formed between your progressed planets and those in your natal chart. This will be a place of change for the upcoming year. The progressed chart is just one way to discern your unfolding life path using the tools of astrology.

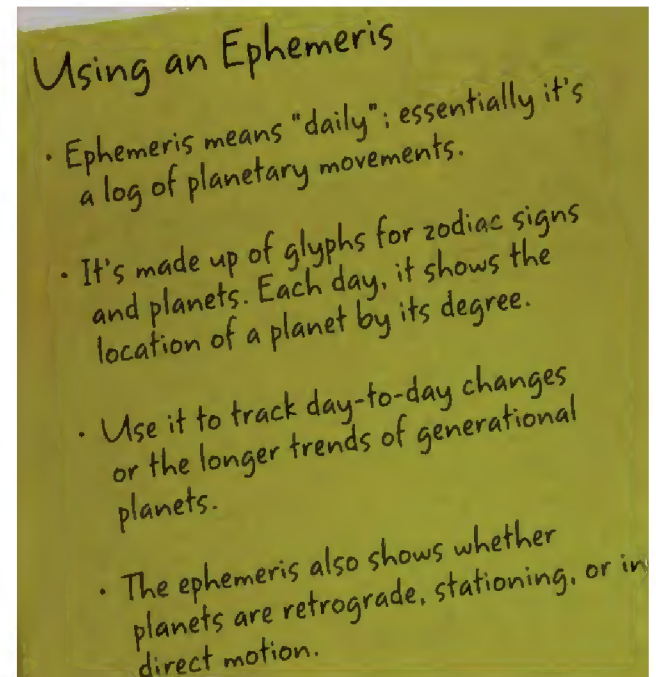
## MAKE IT EASY

- You can find your progressed chart at astro.com, or any site that generates a variety of charts. Take note of planets changing signs, especially the Sun, since that heralds major shifts. Consider planets going retrograde their cosmic do-overs. It's also significant if you've got natal planets in retrograde, and the progressed chart shows them in direct motion.

## Awakenings



- Saturn tends to close doors to people and situations that are no longer satisfying; it can be painful to hit a wall, but it's "for your own good."
- Pluto brings a disturbing psychological purging to any planet it transits; you are then able to build from a pure, concentrated core essence.
- Neptune spiritualizes whatever it touches, but can also bring a sense of disorientation.
- Uranus says, "Snap out of it," and its transits signal a break with the status quo.



# CASTING AHEAD

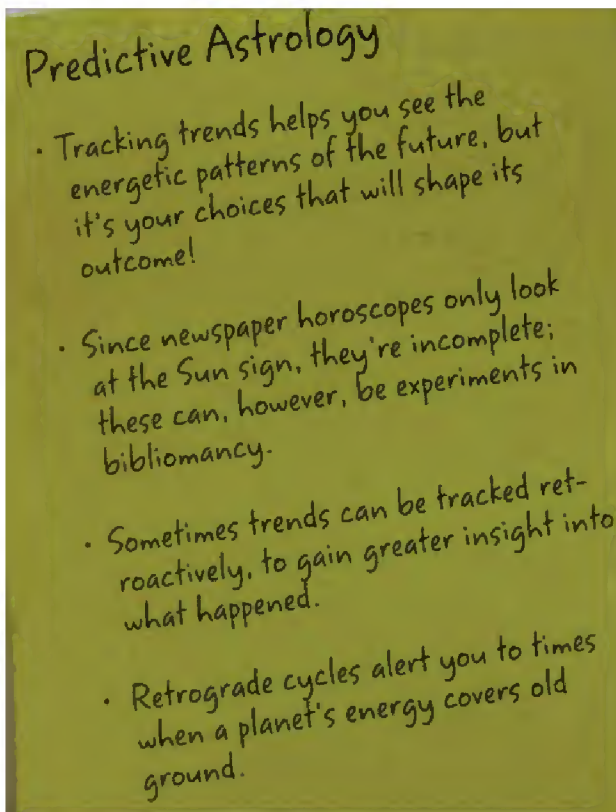
Keeping an eye on transits helps you know the cosmic weather conditions

Astrology's most important tool for predicting the future is tracking transits. Transits are the aspects (angles) that moving planets make to your natal planets. The most earth-shattering transits are when the outer planets aspect your natal planets, since they come at the crossroads of life. Transits to the personal planets influence us for months or days.

As the transiting planets move through the houses of the birth chart, their presence alters the atmosphere

Knowing about transits can help you make sense of a particularly grueling time, with the assurance that "this, too, shall pass." Transits also alert you to possibilities, so that you lay the groundwork for the opportunity to come to its fullest

*Weddings*



- The season of the Sun determines the overall mood of an event, and can color the traits of a marriage.
- Try coordinating love spells when the Moon is new or full in your Venus sign.
- Look at general themes at first, and use the intuitive art of blending to understand the dynamics at play.
- Try visualizing the chart in 3-D, as an energy field that is reflected or expressed in daily life.

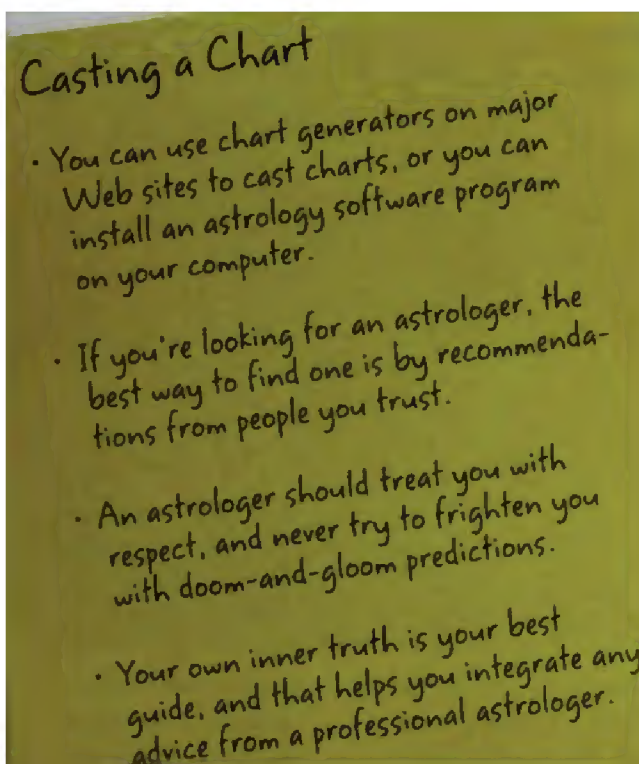
fruition. For example, if Venus is transiting your 7th House of partnerships, you can maximize your love potential by being visible socially and sending the right signals.

When you know how the current sky is impacting your natal chart, you're equipped with insider information. Circle your personal power days on the calendar—those when Mars is giving you an energetic boost, or Mercury aids you with that important speech. You can work magic by initiating renewal in the house that's being activated by the current month's New Moon.

## GREEN LIGHT

- For big decisions, like when to get married, you can cast a chart for certain dates. By looking at the planets in play, the Moon cycle, and Venus's aspects to other planets, you'll have an idea of the mood for that day. Taking it a step farther, consider how transiting planets aspect you and your beloved's natal charts.

### *Daily Planning*



- A day planner depicting Moon signs, Moon phases, and major transits helps you stay in the know.
- You can avoid the mercurial morass that creates confusion when you know when Mercury is in retrograde.
- Some sites, like astro.com, show daily transits, and these are helpful in previewing the rhythm of your day.
- Following the subtle (and not-so-subtle!) planetary changes helps you co-create with these forces and discern the best timing for your actions.

# OLDEST RELIGION

The myths of the celestial vault emerged from a direct engagement with the divine

The movement of the stars and planets across the sky canopy is found intimately woven into every faith tradition. And the ruins of earlier civilizations show an awareness of the cosmos as the timekeeper. The Sun as life giver has been universally worshipped and its nourishing rays honored with stone monuments that track its annual journey.

*As Above, So Below*

- Watching the sky canopy serves a practical purpose for farmers and hunters, but star lore has been always been woven into religion and culture.
- All civilizations noted the constellations, which stirred a deep knowing in the imagination.
- Religion is a way to find our place in the heavenly order, and astrology sets us in the context of the planets and stars.
- There's a mystical mirroring going on that's been a timeless source of wonder; it's the awareness that "as above, so below."

Since our ancestors first spied the fixed stars of the zodiac, tales have been woven about these creatures of the night sky. These gods in the sky became archetypes of profound truth from which to understand events happening in life down below. In stories of creation the sky and the Earth are the two original realms in play.

*Mesopotamia*

- Babylonian texts from 550 B.C. show that planets were considered living deities, and their conjunctions, as omens.
- The astrologer-priests of Mesopotamia served the king and advised him based on what they translated as the desires of the gods.
- The Hellenistic tradition gave rise to the individual horoscope, which linked everyone to a sense of divine destiny.
- Another change in consciousness came with the discovery of the modern planets; these embody collective destiny.



In some cosmologies, a ladder or tree connects the two. The World Tree, a motif in many cultures, is used to represent the polar axis, and has correspondences to our own energy fields within. The awareness that we're a microcosm of the universe itself inspired rituals honoring that reciprocity. Astrology's roots show the impulse to align with the divine order of the spheres. These days, many are rediscovering the spiritual comfort of that mystical relationship in ritual. It's an awe-inspiring reminder that we're part of a grand design, one that's always revealing new levels of meaning.

### *Archaeoastronomy*

- The sky was the ancient timekeeper, and cultures like the ancient Maya engaged with cosmic bodies as living entities.
- The ruins of ancient civilizations show alignments to the Sun and Moon cycles, and with planets and stars.
- The field of archaeoastronomy looks at what's known about rituals, myths, and religious beliefs, and studies alongside sacred sites.
- These ruins are evidence that earlier civilizations focused their sense of cultural continuity was based on the observable cosmos.

If the heavens show the face of the divine, then the birth chart could be considered your spiritual blueprint. You're the stuff of stars, and that's the energetic matrix you carry through life. Native American and African cultures have ceremonies where a child is lifted skyward in recognition of this imprint. Remember, though, that you are the co-creator of your life.

### *Ritual*

- Astrology for spiritual growth can be reintegrated into religious traditions, or followed on its own as a sacred path.
- The symbols of archetypes reach the human imagination at a level beyond analyzing, making them a catalyst for deep healing.
- The act of contemplating a daily, observable correlation with the heavens allows us to fathom the bigger mysteries.
- Being aware of the universal currents is comforting, reinforcing the idea that we're each divine beings.



# EARTH ENERGIES

The final frontier is true awareness of the ground we walk on

When a chart is cast, we mark as the anchoring point, where we are on Earth. If we move to another place, the atmosphere there will engage with the chart in a different way. That's because the Earth has its own grid of energy, and each point has its own resonance. Our ancestors were very aware of this grid; its special vortices were considered sacred. The ancients made pilgrimages to these sites, like Machu Picchu, Sedona,

*Tree of Life*

- The oak tree embodied powerful gods in ancient Europe, known to represent Zeus to the Greeks and the thunder god Thor to the Norse.
- Trees have been honored as embodying the life force of the Earth, and symbols of fertility and protection.
- Native Americans held the redwoods of California and Oregon as sacred; they were never harmed.
- Nature mystics are tuned in to the spirit of trees and plants, and see them as having a living consciousness.

and Mount Kailash in Tibet, areas that are still hot spots for the spiritual seeker. The vortices are like the Earth's chakras, and the ley lines that connect them are her nervous system. From a scientific standpoint, vortices are considered geophysical anomalies. If you've visited a sacred site, you're likely to encounter the palpable emanations. The metaphysical view holds that the Earth is a physical and energetic living entity,

*Sedona, Arizona*

- The vortices at Sedona, Arizona, are felt even by those who aren't sensitive to Earth energies; Native tribes considered these places sacred ground, for ritual only.
  - Ley lines are especially charged Earth energy currents; dowsing is one way to find these.
  - Native Americans called Earth's ley lines the Spirit Path, while Aborigines called them Song Lines.
- Some make pilgrimages to these sacred sites for healing or visions.

and these are points where her energy is concentrated. To be tuned in, they are a power place for ritual, healing, or to experience personal transformation. The designs of these planetary currents are studied for their sacred geometry. Sacred sites can remind us of times when we communed more intimately with Gaia.

The gems of the Earth like crystals, are holders of higher vibrations and can be used for healing. Tools like astrocartography show where you're likely to be invigorated or brought down by heavy energy. And we're just beginning to understand the power of meditation as a way to tune in to the Earth's radiance.

### *Crop Circles*

### *Radiant Earth*

- Some believe the crop circles are created by off-world entities, or by Earth consciousness itself.
- In 1990 the Hopi were shown a glyph made in southern England, which they interpreted as "Mother is crying."
- Witnesses have seen beams of light that later became crop circle sites; it's thought that the beams guide the plant entities to move in a certain way.
- Are the symbols, often a form of sacred geometry, Mother Earth's way of triggering collective memory?
- In northern Scotland, the Findhorn garden has experimented with group prayer to draw out nature's abundance.
- The biosphere is suffering from a lack of reverence for life; Mother Earth wreaks vengeance on those who mistreat her.
- Many are trying to heal the earth by farming with organic methods, or learning how to commune with nature through art or prayer.
- One way or another, ancient Gaia will renew herself, and evidence shows she has done that for 3.6 eons.

# MIRRORS OF THE SELF

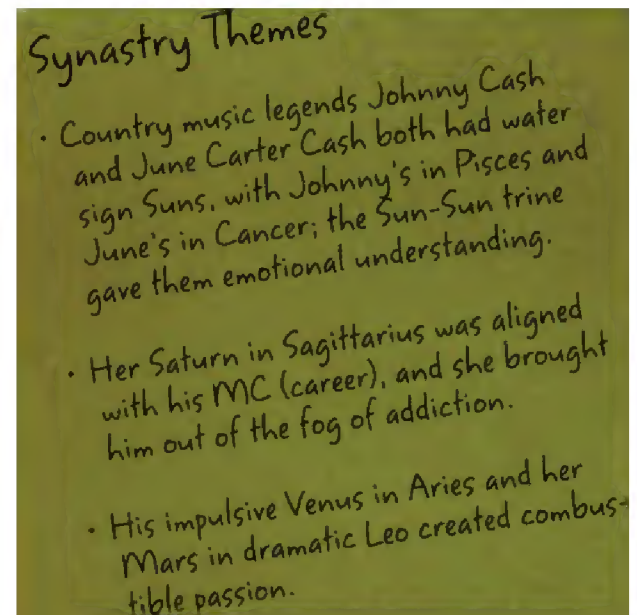
Relationships and the continual process of awakening to who we are

The art of comparing two birth charts is called synastry. While any pairing has synastry, this tool is used most often to look at the dynamics in love relationships. Often one wheel is placed within the other to clearly show how the planets in their signs and houses match up.

The aspects formed between the planets of the two charts

tell of major relationship themes. When there are harmonious conjunctions and trines, these are areas that flow well. When hard aspects like squares and oppositions are in play, tensions run high. If we're too much alike, a match can lack challenge. When the drama throws the relationship off balance, it'll likely self-destruct. Into relationships, a little rain

## *Mirrors*



An instant dislike of someone is a sure sign that he's got traits you find unattractive in yourself.

The synastry you have with another will emphasize certain traits over others; an ideal match engages the full self.

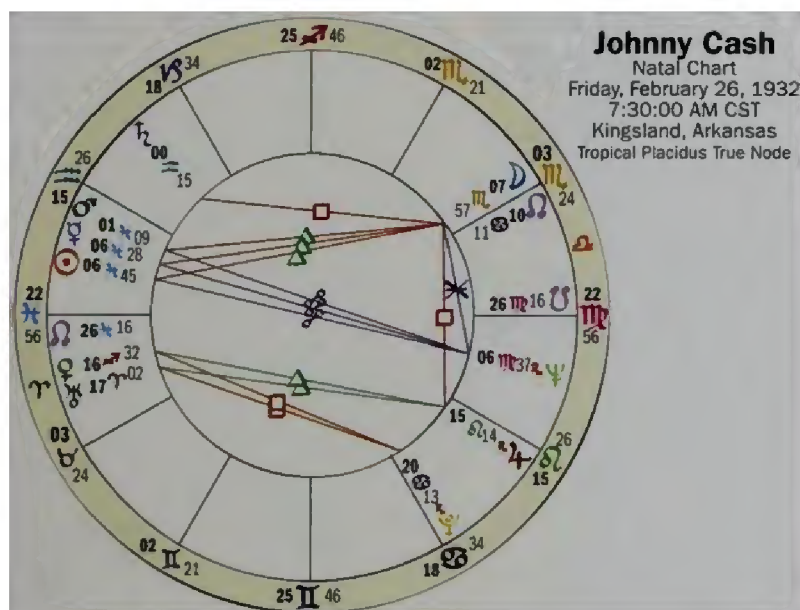
- Other people catalyze your latent potential, whether through tension or support, bringing it out into the open.

- Some relationship chemistry cracks you open, leaving you to pick up the pieces; years later you may reflect on that "failed" romance as a huge life lesson.

must fall, and even those that end bring lessons that allow us to know ourselves better.

When looking at recurring patterns, synastry confirms that we're most agitated around those people who embody our shadow side. For example, if you fall for an Aries Sun, and your Saturn is in Aries, your "little dictator" will likely be provoked intensely. That's because what you keep controlled is radiating out in full glory in your Aries partner. If there's enough trust to work through that vulnerability, what's in the shadow can be brought to the light.

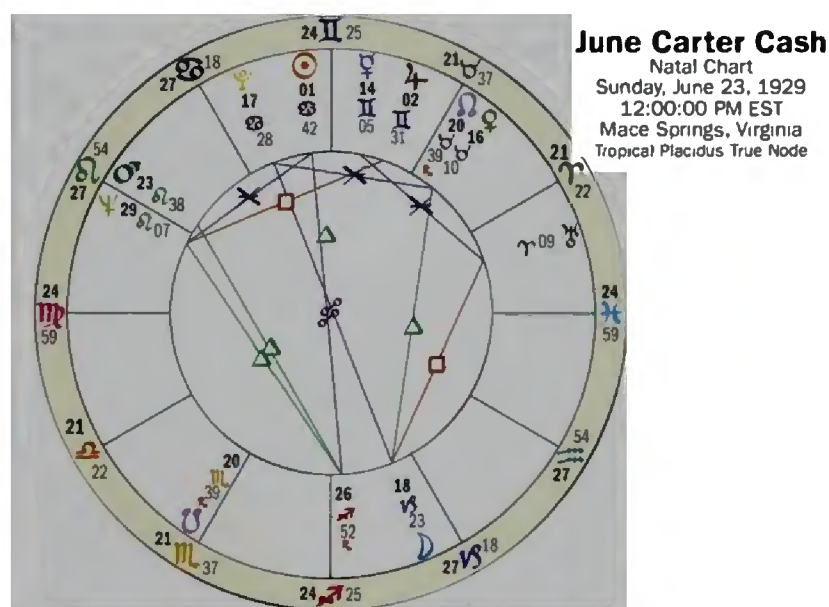
### Johnny Cash's Chart



- Johnny's Sun is in the 12th House of Seclusion, Sacrifice, and Spirituality; he showed great compassion for the scorned by performing at prisons.
- His Sun and other planets in Pisces formed a harmony to his Moon in Scorpio, giving him a reservoir of strength to face inner demons.
- John Cash Jr. writes of a father who struggled to keep a grip on reality; Johnny Cash had near-death experiences, and was in and out of rehab during his marriage.

Relationships have a way of mirroring both what's raw in the shadows and unclaimed potential in the light. Even if a match implodes, you take away priceless self-knowledge. Everyone in our lives can become a mirror of parts of the self we can't see clearly. A friend may point out some manipulative behavior, often traced to Pluto, giving us a chance to see it and change. It's all part of the path of relationships, one that is always aimed toward becoming more whole.

### June Carter Cash's Chart



- June struggled with addiction, and a possessive Venus in Taurus made her jealous and fearful that Johnny would cheat.
- June's Cancer Sun and stabilizing Capricorn Moon made her a powerful matriarch who ruled the home.
- June's chart shows a penchant for opulent living; her Mars in Leo was supported by Johnny's Jupiter, and many of their purchases were over-the-top.
- Johnny and June's love lasted a lifetime, with him dying a few months after she did in 2003.

# DARK NIGHTS

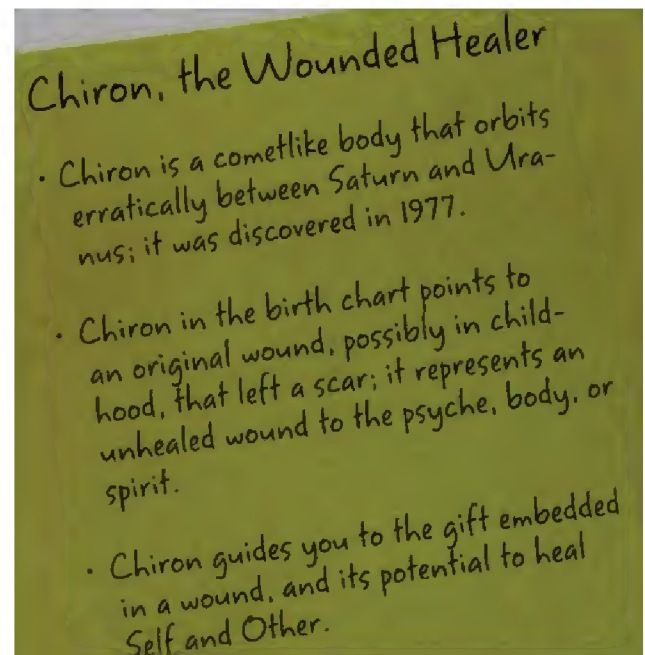
When traumatic times or loss change you forever

Using astrology's tools to understand your spiritual path can be a comfort through what seem to be inexplicably devastating times. If you've got a harsh Saturn aspect in your chart, and are constantly discouraged, it helps to put it into perspective. Instead of raising your fist to the sky and shouting that life isn't fair, Saturn as a karmic balancer gives us a context to overcome its trials. Saturn's dark side is inviting us to

overcome our fears and claim the wisdom that's at the core.

Astrology takes the longest view possible: You're an eternal being on the path to wholeness, drawing to you exactly what you need. Seen through that lens, the lord of karma is not trying to smack you down for fun, but to help you grow! Still, there are events that truly do seem like cruel fate, especially when they happen to a child or an entire people. The

## *Dark Night*



- The birth chart has insights about what's below our own conscious radar.
- Knowing that a challenging transit is coming up alerts you to the dangers, so you can keep your eyes open.
- Saturn's position points to areas of fear and defensiveness; transits to Saturn threaten our sense of security.
- Pluto's house position shows the areas where you're likely to be broken down and built up; transits to Pluto often bring devastating events that eventually lead to rebirth.

whys of the divine hand are often veiled, and that's where spiritual faith is our lifeline.

The planet Pluto takes you to the dark side, through a tragic loss or betrayal that destroys life as you know it. It's a psychic death that requires surrender to a force greater than yourself. The surrender is to the unknown devourer, and faith helps you loosen the grip on control. Staring into the face of your own or another's darkness, you emerge stronger for the experience.

The rhythms of astrology have many fallow periods, like the Dark Moon, when surrender takes you into the dark void.

### *Natural Disasters*

- Tuning in to the archetypes of planets reminds us that there are forces over which we have no control.
- Pluto's transit through Capricorn sets the stage for Earth changes as the planet experiences its own death and rebirth.
- The longer cycles of outer planets place us into the context of the evolutionary moment.
- Seeing our lives within the longer astrological cycle helps us take events less personally.

If you know what's surfacing within yourself and are ready to be transformed, your surrender can be the higher healing force of the dark. The times of dying become sacred, rich with possibilities to be made anew.

### *Collective Disasters*

- The intensity of some transits sweeps everyone up into the drama as part of a collective surge.
- The birth chart shows how you personally are triggered by epoch-changing transits, or gives clues to your mission in a historic time.
- Certain points in the chart show where you're likely to hold on to old structures (Saturn), and where you're likely to embrace the future rushing toward us (Uranus, Jupiter).
- Your life purpose could very well emerge from the breakdown of society.



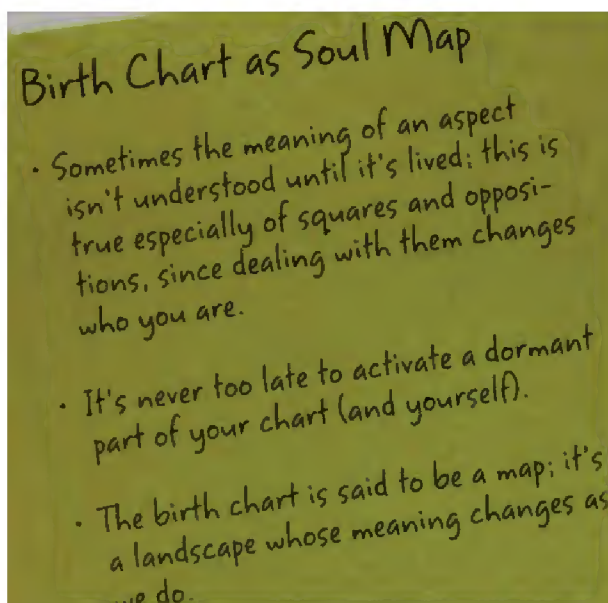
# MASTERING YOUR ENERGY

As you season over time, new dimensions of the chart are revealed

Your one-of-a-kind birth chart, with its patterns, signs, and lit-up houses, is a symbolic map. It gives you the outline to understand the multidimensional matrix of your energy body. Each planet represents a part of you that will seek expression in your life. The zodiac signs are the currents you move in, where you appear in your best light. The houses that have major planets in them will be life areas with either obvious

gifts or hidden treasures. The birth chart can be called fated in the sense that it never changes. And as a spirit embedded in that personal energy frame, your instincts naturally guide you toward fulfilling your life mission. The gifts are there, but it's up to you to cultivate them. And when hard squares or difficult transits force you to take action, it's your choices that will define your life.

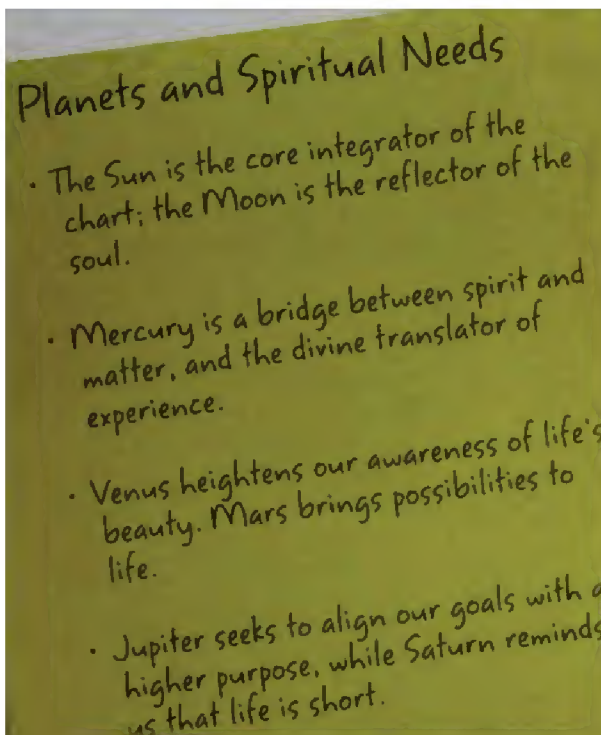
## *Contemplating Destiny*



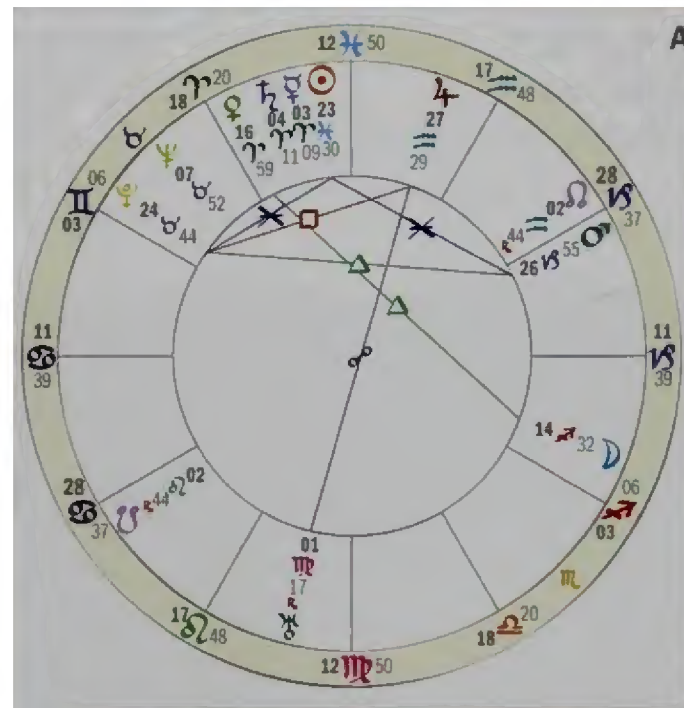
- When you're aware of your own chart, you're better able to work with the planetary currents as a co-creator of your life.
- The people you meet will activate potentials in the birth chart; often there's a clear "reason" why you're drawn to certain types.
- If you're suddenly befriend- ing lots of Gemini people, there's likely a need to be around that particular frequency.
- It's best to keep a sense of wonder and avoid hard-and-fast rules about compatibility.

The birth chart's key themes can be considered lifelong meditations. For example, as you learn to manage an overwhelming square, like Mars to Pluto, you may leave a wake of destruction in your path. It takes a long time to see through the illusions of the psyche. It's learning to productively channel the tensions within.

- To reach your highest potential, you've got to draw on the power of the entire chart. If you're denying an important planet, like Saturn, it creates an imbalance that external events will set right.
- Transits to a planet will bring it out of the shadows so you can engage with it. The tools of astrology show you how to integrate all these conflicting pieces.



*Albert Einstein's Chart*



**Albert Einstein**  
 Natal Chart  
 March 14 1879  
 11 30 AM  
 Wurttemberg, Germany  
 Tropical Placidus

- A challenging Saturn-Mercury conjunction in Aries caused a communication delay in Einstein's life. But once he found his voice, his theory of relativity saw him declared a genius.
- His Sun was in mystical Pisces with a Moon in visionary Sagittarius; he saw science, spirituality, and art as branches of the same tree.
- His Jupiter and North Node were in Aquarius, a sign of universal compassion; he was a voice against nuclear weapons and war, seeing a need for humanity to awaken.

# RESOURCES

## Free Online Birth Charts

[www.alabe.com](http://www.alabe.com)

[www.astro.com](http://www.astro.com)

## Recommended Sites

Café Astrology:

[www.cafeastrology.com](http://www.cafeastrology.com)

Maya del Mar's Daykeeper Journal:

[www.daykeeper.com](http://www.daykeeper.com)

The Mountain Astrologer:

<http://mountainastrologer.com/tma/>

Planetary Apothecary

<http://planetaryapothecary.com>

Planetwaves:

[www.planetwaves.net](http://www.planetwaves.net)

Sasstrology.com (The Astrology of Sex, Love and Relationships):

<http://sasstrology.com>

Star IQ:

[www.stariq.com](http://www.stariq.com)

Zodiacal Zephyr:

<http://zodiacal.com>

## History of Astrology

Astronomy and Astrology in Culture:

[www.nickcampion.com](http://www.nickcampion.com)

## 2012

John Major Jenkins:

<http://alignment2012.com>

Reality Sandwich:

[www.realitysandwich.com](http://www.realitysandwich.com)

William Henry:

[www.williamhenry.net](http://www.williamhenry.net)

## Moon Wisdom

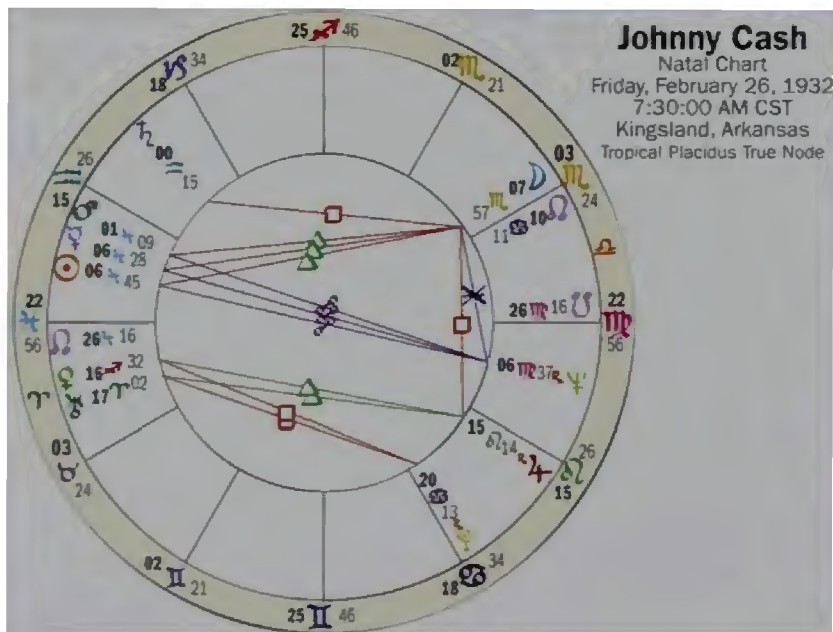
Moon Circles:

[www.mooncircles.com](http://www.mooncircles.com)

## Selected Astrologers

Cathy Pagano:

[www.wisdom-of-astrology.com](http://www.wisdom-of-astrology.com)



## Study Astrology

Avalon School of Astrology:  
[www.avalonastrology.com](http://www.avalonastrology.com)

Faculty of Astrological Studies:  
[www.astrology.org.uk](http://www.astrology.org.uk)

International Academy of Astrology:  
[www.astrocollege.com](http://www.astrocollege.com)

Kepler College:  
[www.kepler.edu/main](http://www.kepler.edu/main)

Mayo School of Astrology:  
[www.mayoastrology.com](http://www.mayoastrology.com)

Elizabeth Jones:  
[www.starpathways.com](http://www.starpathways.com)

Eileen Grimes:

[www.](http://www.)

Jessica Murray:  
[www.mothersky.com](http://www.mothersky.com)

Shelley Ackerman:  
[www.karmicrelief.com](http://www.karmicrelief.com)

## Choosing a Wedding Date

April Elliott Kent at Big Sky Astrology:

[www.bigskyastrology.com](http://www.bigskyastrology.com)

# ADDITIONAL INTERPRETATIONS

## Rising (or Ascendant) Signs

Those with Aries rising have forceful, even provocative personalities; they are instigators, but not necessarily finishers.

Those with Taurus rising are steady and mellow, with a sensual rhythm in tune with physical surroundings.

Those with Gemini rising *are* jittery, social, with an endless curiosity and need to stay on the go.

Those with Cancer rising appear empathetic, are highly imaginative, and are sensitive to the emotions of others.

Those with Leo rising have proud, dramatic personalities and great joie de vivre.

The Virgo rising personality is modest, helpful, and meticulous, with a physical presence that radiates purity and health.

Those with Libra rising are easy charmers, with a notable sense of style.

The Scorpio rising personality is veiled but magnetic, with a built-in sense of caution that keeps even loved ones at a safe distance.

Those with Sagittarius rising are free-spirited and openly friendly; they seek to cover a lot of ground, with friends who understand their need to move.

The Capricorn rising personality is formidable, grounded in the substance of life, and geared toward achievement.

The Aquarius rising personality is eclectic, radical, and taboo busting, with a nonjudgmental live-and-let-live attitude.

Those with Pisces rising are gentle, mystical, imaginative, and dreamy, and need to avoid overstimulation to stay balanced.

## Mercury Signs

A Mercury in Aries person has a mind that's awake and able to quickly see the essence of any situation; this is a thinker with pioneering ideas.

The Mercury in Taurus person has a methodical mind that's focussed on substance and security; there's often a steady discipline here that allows for mastery of any art or skill.

The Mercury in Gemini mind is a speedy translator of everything around it, with gifts as a wordsmith, humorist, artist, and social commentator.

The Mercury in Cancer person comes to an understanding through emotional impressions, and grasps the nuances of human behavior.

The Mercury in Leo person speaks with a fiery charge, and often has a colorful way of communicating.

The Mercury in Virgo person strives to speak with cohesion and attention to detail.

The Mercury in Libra person wants to weigh all the options, and excels at balancing, mediating, harmonizing.

The Mercury in Scorpio person probes deeply into any topic, is fascinated by the unseen and the unsaid, is highly intuitive, and is drawn to know psychic truth at any cost.

The Mercury in Sagittarius person has a restless intellect, and their hunger for knowledge can spur extensive journeys.

The Mercury in Capricorn mind is purposeful, with a need to focus on grand achievable goals over the long term

The Mercury in Aquarius mind has trapdoors that let in ideas from mysterious sources, as well as a gift for seeing matrices and the web that connects everything.

The Mercury in Pisces person is a dreamer whose impressions are the stuff of art, and delights others with poetic style.



## Moon Signs

The Moon in Aries person is quick to react, easily bored, and a catalyst for the emotions of others.

The Moon in Taurus person is solid, serene, and a soul grounded in the patient rhythm of nature.

The Moon in Gemini person is changeable, with quick mood shifts and an insatiable social curiosity.

The Moon in Cancer person is sentimental, sensitive, and a lifelong holder of every emotional memory it experiences.

The Moon in Leo person is enthusiastic, a natural artist, colorful, and encouraging to loved ones.

The Moon in Virgo person is disciplined about daily routine, private, and sincere.

The Moon in Libra person is a natural in partnership, with airy charm and an instinct for balance.

The Moon in Scorpio person has secret depths and torments, and is tuned in to the power to transform what's dark into light.

The Moon in Sagittarius person is a soul in motion, nourished by adventures like travel and fascinating friends.

The Moon in Capricorn person has a deeply rooted sense of tradition, and can be conservative, instinctively ambitious, and focused on long-range plans.

The Moon in Aquarius person is a natural loner who's drawn to groups; paradoxically this person is an easy friend who allows much space to others.

The Moon in Pisces person is soulful, artistic, vulnerable to others, and tends to swim in a personal sea of memories, feelings, and impressions.

## Mars Signs

The Mars in Aries person surges forward when the impulse hits, and can be combative but also highly energizing to be around.

The Mars in Taurus person is capable, sure-footed, and able to build enduring structures.

The Mars in Gemini person can juggle tasks and has an erratic rhythm geared toward quick, short tasks.

The Mars in Cancer person reads the emotional vibes before acting, and is known to act gently and with compassion.

The Mars in Leo person is passionate, attention seeking, and motivated by pride and a desire for self-expression.

The Mars in Virgo person moves in a carefully considered, organized way, and is drawn to finely wrought work that allows for a consistent daily routine.

The Mars in Libra person acts with balance in mind, and there's often a delay as all the options are considered.

The Mars in Scorpio person has intensity and a great sense of knowing when to strike

The Mars in Sagittarius person seeks to cover a lot of ground, and all actions are taken to expand the horizons.

The Mars in Capricorn person is the epitome of self-control, harnessing energy and resources toward goals set in an admirable way.

The Mars in Aquarius person has unusual passions and doesn't mind veering into the fringes, innovating at society's frontier.

The Mars in Pisces person has fluctuating vitality levels, and is often overwhelmed to the point of inaction; this is a highly auspicious placement for a working artist.

## Saturn Signs

The Saturn in Aries person is a feisty, battle-tested leader; true wisdom comes from learning to take risks and courageously acting in disciplined ways.

The Saturn in Taurus person is resourceful with a steady focus, often able to slowly build up a great personal fortune from hard work.

The Saturn in Gemini person finds order in mental chaos, and has gifts in writing, teaching, or drama.

The Saturn in Cancer person is self-protective to the point of hiding feelings; there's a strong need for security at home before reaching for goals out in the world.

The Saturn in Leo person has the ambition and creativity to succeed, and is a natural leader.

The Saturn in Virgo person finds structure in constant productivity; there is a need for work that's serious and satisfying.

The Saturn in Libra person is a teacher of relating whose wisdom reaches into areas of mediation, peacemaking, justice, and the arts.

The Saturn in Scorpio person has wise eyes that see in the dark, is a great strategist and may be drawn to soul-healing work.

The Saturn in Sagittarius person brings discipline to the search for truth and may be an inspiring teacher or leader.

The Saturn in Capricorn person has enormous determination pushing past any obstacle to see a project through to the end.

The Saturn in Aquarius person lives a public life moving among networks of friends, and pursues innovative ideas off the beaten path.

The Saturn in Pisces person seeks structure for imaginative talents, and may thrive in an artistic career or become a teacher of a spiritual discipline such as yoga.

Please note: For Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, the dates shown here are inclusive of the retrograde period, when the planet moves briefly back into the previous sign.

## Uranus Generations

**Uranus in Aries (1927–1935)** turned self-image into a kind of rebellion against convention like that of the bobbed flapper in the Roaring Twenties. This transit saw extremes in the markets, and

the plunge of the Great Depression. This generation's rebellion came from a strong will and ability to enthusiastically start over from scratch.

**Uranus in Taurus (1934–1942)** was a time when the onset of world war caused sudden changes in the financial (and for some, physical) landscape. This transit evoked a need for radical self-reliance and determination. This generation's rebellion came in the form of conserving material resources, and many are fixated on the personal empires they've carefully built up.

**Uranus in Gemini (1941–1949)** led to a flurry of breakthroughs of mind and psyche. In America, the GI Bill was signed, and in general, more young people continued onto college shattering an old status quo. Those born with Uranus in Gemini became the sixties rebels who challenged the established mind-set, and instigated radically new ideas.

**Uranus in Cancer (1948–1956)** saw the start of watching television at home, which revolutionized family life; it began an era in which children's minds are shaped by the technology around them. This generation has a quirky imagination and extreme emotional highs and lows.

**Uranus in Leo (1955–1962)** brought the shocking passion of rock-and-roll and the rise of heartthrobs like Elvis. This generation revels in competition, prideful self-display, and can be charismatic leaders.

**Uranus in Virgo (1961–1969)** gave rise to radical simplicity, as many went back to the land to rediscover the hands-on crafts and cultivation that are in sync with natural processes. This generation furthers the legacy of the original 1960s hippies; many want to be of service, to heal the Earth and live with integrity.

**Uranus in Libra (1968–1975)** saw radical changes in marriage, with an unprecedented number breaking apart in divorce. A new equilibrium is sought in fields of law, art, and partnership. This generation rebels against conventions to redefine its idea of balance and harmony.

**Uranus in Scorpio (1975–1981)** led to the rise of the therapeutic

talk show, and awakenings through “soul retrieval” by healing from abuse. This generation digs for the whole story, and may be catalysts to transform society’s psychic debris into seeds for the future.

**Uranus in Sagittarius (1981–1988)** saw electrifying changes in what people believe, climaxing with the fall of the old borders of the Soviet Union. This generation has a passion for going beyond the perceptual status quo to reach for expanded knowledge and truth.

**Uranus in Capricorn (1988–1996)** brought radical deregulation of the financial system, globalization, and privatization. This

generation will be “young radicals” who struggle to break free of the limitations of consolidated wealth to experiment with freedom and equitable sharing of resources.

**Uranus in Aquarius** (1995–2003) is marked by scientific innovation, social movements, and sudden surges toward humanitarian ideals. This generation has a revolutionary spirit geared toward identifying with “the People.” They will bring breakthroughs in technology that liberate humanity in some way.

**Uranus in Pisces** (2003–2010) has brought moments of global oneness that shatter the old barriers of the heart. Awakenings are experienced as waves of rising consciousness, and seen in the areas of beliefs, religion, imagination, intuition, and mysticism.

**Uranus in Aries** (2010–2016) will catalyze the New Age as more begin to take action, even if it means being lone pioneers. The fighting spirit of Aries lends courage to the rebellion, genius, and revolutionary spirit of Uranus. We’re sure to see a renewed quest for personal freedom, with a willingness to take daring risks to break out of the chains of the oppressive status quo.

## Neptune Generations

**Neptune in Leo** (1915–1929) saw the rise of glamour and entertainment via motion pictures; this generation is especially drawn into play, luxury, and creative self-expression.

**Neptune in Virgo** (1929–1936) brought an emphasis on humble goodness, and was the time of the Great Depression. The “talkies”

emerged, and much mercurial analysis of the spiritual values of society and religion.

**Neptune in Libra (1942–1957)** idealizes and surrenders to the divine through marriage, and the pursuit of equality and balance.

**The Neptune in Scorpio (1957–1971)** generation took a dark turn into the occult (hidden) mysteries through psychedelic drugs and culture.

**The Neptune in Sagittarius (1970–1985)** generation seeks spiritual truths in exotic places, is open to other traditions, and has a light, optimistic outlook.

**Neptune in Capricorn (1984–1998)** is more apt to seek God on the earthly plane, and will surely show talent in communing with the elements

**Neptune in Aquarius (1998–2012)** may well seem like visionaries from the future who help humanity make the quantum leaps that are necessary for survival.

## Pluto Generations

**Pluto in Cancer (1913–1938)** had their homes and nations devastated by war; they express power through volatile emotions, family bonds, and seeking security.

**Pluto in Leo (1937–1957)** gave rise to the meritocracy, the “Me” generation, and auspicious wealth; they express power through personal dynamism, arrogance, or creative self-expression

**Pluto in Virgo (1957–1971)** saw a return to holistic ways of living; this generation expresses power through integrity, service, and healing.

**Pluto in Libra (1971–1984)** transformed marriage, with altered power dynamics; this group expresses power as mediators, in relationships, and as artists.

**Pluto in Scorpio (1983–1995)** brought illness that equated sex with death (AIDS), sex scandals, and a time of openly purging psychological trauma; this generation expresses power by facing the dark side of the psyche and society.

**Pluto in Sagittarius (1995–2007)** saw extreme changes in media, ideological wars, and the “death” of public truth; this group expresses the power of having a vision.

**Pluto in Capricorn (2007–2023)** brings upheaval in big business, government, and the Earth itself; this generation will remake all institutions, salvaging only what’s valuable.



# PLANETS IN HOUSES

## Planets in 1st House

- The Sun gives your presence a charge that people notice.
- The Moon gives you a soulful, emotionally open demeanor.
- Mercury makes your powers of perception a big part of who you are.
- Venus graces you with beauty, likeability, ease.
- Mars keeps your motor revved, with energy to spare.
- Jupiter gives you a lucky face that brings out the best in others.
- Saturn casts you in a serious, responsible light.
- Neptune makes you artistic, dreamy.
- Pluto puts power on display, for good and ill.
- Uranus makes you a bit eccentric, original.

## Planets in 2nd House

- The Sun gives you a healthy ego and confidence that you can build on a solid foundation.
- The Moon mixes emotions and money, and may tend toward possessiveness.
- Mercury lends practicality to your thinking, and confers artistic discipline.
- Venus mixes business with pleasure and is at ease with work friends.
- Mars gives you the vitality, drive, and ambition to go after what you want.
- Jupiter graces you with money luck and an aura of prosperity.
- Saturn forces you to learn self-worth the hard way.
- Neptune makes you vulnerable to illusions and deception in money matters.
- Pluto offers a path of transformation played out in the realm of wealth, self-worth, security.
- Uranus brings many plot twists and a lifelong urge to break free of limitations on what kind of life is possible.

## Planets in 3rd House

- The Sun gives you a basic need to socialize for well-being.
- The Moon means you're restored emotionally in stimulating settings.
- Mercury is a magician here, taking in raw data and spewing out genius.

## Planets in 4th House

The Sun makes your home where you're most confident, creative, and energized.

The Moon is at home here, and knows how to comfort the Self and others.

Mercury makes communication hum and enjoys intimate discussion.

Venus loves to nurture others as guests, and truly unwinds in her comfy corner.

Mars constantly tends to home and hearth, and is fiercely protective of loved ones.

Venus keeps her dance card full, loves variety, and is an incorrigible flirt.

Mars stays restlessly on the move, seeking novel ideas to pounce on.

Jupiter is buoyed by the social buzz and excels as a cultural arbiter

Saturn has social reserve but is respected when authority is earned.

Neptune sees the divine and imaginative fodder in the society's social rhythms.

Pluto tunes in to the power of communication as an agent of great change.

Uranus adds a touch of genius, with shocks and awakenings triggered by seemingly random exchanges.

Jupiter loves a good home, and has luck with moves and real estate investments.

Saturn wears the face of tough love, takes nurturing responsibilities seriously, and is the holder of family wisdom.

Neptune idealizes family life, which can lead to disappointment or to acceptance of a more realistic view.

Pluto has deep-seated issues to resolve about family or ancestry; these hold keys to getting at the heart of life's mysteries.

Uranus may bring frequent upsets or moves, especially in childhood.

## Planets in 5th House

The Sun needs admiration, and must pursue highly personal creative efforts to feel fulfilled.

The Moon adds a soulful depth and emotionality to expression. Mercury has a witty, insightful eye, which can lead to success in the creative arts.

Venus loves the game of romance, and is a party girl.

Mars burns hot with passion, whether for a new love interest or a pleasurable pastime.

Jupiter finds faith through what it loves, and that heart surge leads to the fruit of creativity.

Saturn can be a killjoy here, but when fears are faced, the wisdom to enjoy life is achieved.

Neptune makes art a transcendent experience that can determine the course of life.

Pluto presents a path of growth through self-revelation and overcoming a terror of risks.

Uranus brings awakenings in the midst of merrymaking, lending a quirky artistic outlook.

## Planets in 6th House

The Sun gives you a nature that's fixed on self-improvement.

The Moon has a pressing emotional need for a balanced routine.

Mercury is drawn to working with systems of the body or of nature.

Venus makes friends and lovers out of colleagues, and needs to love her life's work.

Mars is a productive dynamo—as long as the work serves others or a higher purpose.

Jupiter needs to “believe” in what it's doing in order to fully engage.

Saturn reins in the focus, lending great discipline to the process, not just the end goal.

Neptune's fog leads to discordant or underpaid work, but there can be success in fields such as the visual arts or storytelling.

Pluto's raw force can be a tyrant in the workplace but has the potential to be a profound soul healer as well.

Uranus craves change and excitement, and is driven to experimental work.

## Planets in 7th House

The Sun's nature is suited to being half of a dynamic duo.

The Moon instinctually understands what will restore harmony.

Mercury's ability to see both sides leads to a fair, diplomatic outlook.

Venus is a serial monogamist, at home in friendships as well as love affairs.

Mars is provocative in its quest for relationship equilibrium.

Jupiter charms new people and thrives when paired up.

Saturn makes you wait for true love, but supports loyal, committed ties.

Neptune makes you the sort who looks for a soul mate and has an idealized, romantic view of love.

Pluto drags you through intense breakups and power struggles until you reform your ways and establish new kinds of relationships.

Uranus draws you to freedom-loving partners, and causes sudden endings and beginnings.

## Planets in 8th House

The Sun adds magnetism here, and a sense of straddling two worlds.

The Moon gives you rare intuitive sight and highly passionate emotions.

Mercury sees all and knows all, especially what folks try to hide.

Venus is all-or-nothing, longing to surrender to the forces created with her lover.

Mars is a sexy beast with the courage to face the darkness of the self or a loved one.

Jupiter finds growth through soul-mining kinds of activities, sexual experiences, and mastering the art of deep change.

Saturn is fearful of the shadows here, but through perseverance becomes a wise one able to see in the dark.

Neptune heightens sexual fantasies and takes the imagination into the rich, mysterious darkness.

Pluto is at home in the shadows, and conveys irresistible personal power that backfires when used against others.

Uranus is stimulated by the unseen dimensions of life, and is an experimental taboo buster when it comes to fulfilling sexual appetites.

## Planets in 9th House

The Sun is the eternal student, a world traveler, and a friend to all.

The Moon is openhearted but needs ample breathing room.

Mercury has an insatiable hunger for knowledge, as well as gut-level powers of perception.

Venus meets new friends every day and is attracted to the world-wise and active.

Mars is motivated by a search for meaning, and can move mountains when there is something to know.

Jupiter brings luck while traveling, sage mentors at the right time, and spiritual synchronicity.

Saturn encourages a planned approach to journeying, and may bring frustrations in the classroom.

Neptune seeks mystical travel, and may be disillusioned by what's discovered.

Pluto is obsessively attached to beliefs, but may be forced by experiences to open to other ways of seeing.

Uranus experiments with religions on the fringe, going through radical changes in belief over time.

## Planets in 10th House

The Sun is driven to succeed, with an ambitious, confident nature.

The Moon makes you a restorer of public calm, an anchoring presence.

Mercury speaks with a voice of authority and from a well of personal power.

Venus is a material girl, attracted to power, wealth, and prestige.

Mars pursues its ambitions in a highly charged, sometimes ruthless manner.

Jupiter brings career luck, with helpful mentors, and unexpected open doors.

Saturn is at home here, adding fortitude and extra loads of responsibility.

Neptune puts a fog around aspirations, and integrates spirituality into career.

Pluto's intensity centers on personal ambition and a core drive to leave a lasting impact on the world.

Uranus's need for freedom means many career changes in a restless quest to find outlets for unconventional gifts.

## Planets in 11th House

The Sun prefers group activities to one-on-one, and thrives as part of a movement.

The Moon is restored when mixing it up with others.

Mercury rides the waves of collective thought, and is highly social.

Venus craves varied relationships, and relates abstractly to each person as a friend.



Mars is a mover and shaker with many acquaintances.

Jupiter likes to attach its dreams to those of the whole, and has a wide circle of friends.

Saturn strives for a sense of purpose in togetherness, or prefers to be alone.

Neptune can cause social confusion as well as the ability to wear many guises, depending on the people around.

Pluto lends its power to reform to the public arena, leading to a life in politics or community service.

Uranus moves in fringe circles and changes friend sets often.

## Planets in 12th House

The Sun thrives on enveloping solitude, is impressionable and profound, but may have a self-destructive side that is beyond conscious awareness.

The Moon's emotions are veiled, but the nature is deeply sensitive, artistic, and often reclusive.

Mercury's perceptive eye peers into many dimensions, the source of both nightmares and boundless inspiration.

Venus struggles with boundaries and has to guard against self-undoing in relationships.

Mars acts below the radar and is motivated by a sense of spiritual unity.

Jupiter has faith in the private imagination and is unconcerned with worldly acclaim.

Saturn deals with many ungraspable fears, and has a hard time stepping up to claim personal authority.

Neptune lives in its own world, where dreams are as real as waking reality.

Pluto is drawn to know the mysteries of the cosmos, and may symbolically "die" on the path to deeper understanding.

Uranus is constantly triggering an awakening to new levels of psychic understanding, and may inspire many strange trips.

# TRANSITS TO HOUSES

## Transits to 1st House

The Sun's annual visit energizes you from the inside out.

The Moon makes you tender, vulnerable.

Mercury makes you expressive, vocal.

Venus puts you in your best, most affable light.

Mars brings passions to the surface so they're visible.

Jupiter adds a bounce and optimism to your persona.

Saturn pressures you to be disciplined with your presentation.

Jupiter surrounds you with mystery, illusion.

Pluto revamps your entire outward self.

Uranus loosens chains of personality and makes you experimental.

## Transits to 2nd House

The Sun shines light on or gives a boost to plans of wealth creation.

The Moon stirs moods and memories of abundance or lack.

Mercury turns his perceptive eye toward life's realities and the creation of income streams.

Venus draws helpful alliances with people who share your values.

Mars gives you the energy to take charge and take care of business.

Jupiter gifts you with sudden windfalls and the faith to create an abundant life.

Saturn brings lessons of discipline, patience, and wisdom to 2nd House concerns.

Jupiter lends idealism, but could lead you into a web of deceit.

Pluto does a total overhaul, drawing out a life-affirming vision and stripping away what's false.

Uranus drops in windfalls or sets you on a zigzag path through changes in your basic lifestyle.

## Transits to 3rd House

The Sun throws a monthlong annual party, drawing your extroverted side to places where folks gather.

The Moon brings moods to the surface, which adds shades of dark or light to casual discussions.

Mercury's curiosity is piqued, and new fascinations are sought.

Venus is charmed by all, and is open to love in the produce aisle.

Mars gives you the drive to mingle and take action based on what you learn.

Jupiter brings luck through idea exchange and piques your curiosity to be “in the know.”

Saturn brings lessons of caution, teaching you to engage in wise and productive ways.

Neptune fogs up the perceptive lens, making it easy to draw false conclusions.

Pluto totally revamps your social life, breathing new life into what’s grown lonely or outdated.

Uranus fills your days with strange serendipities, eccentric people, and taboo-busting exchanges.

## Transits to 4th House

The Sun is a busy homemaker during its annual transit, finding ways to brighten the home with new life.

The Moon calls you home with introspective moods or a need to simply unwind.

Mercury’s wheels turn best at home, and thoughts turn to memories, family, and the past.

Venus remembers the joy of staying home; beautification becomes a priority.

Mars has endless energy to rearrange furniture or create a masterpiece in the home studio.

Jupiter brings a lucky move or expansion to your home space.

Saturn points out where your needs are going unmet, or where you are defensive, so you can go deeper and cultivate family intimacy.

Neptune enhances dreams and intuition, but can throw up scary illusions that upset your sense of security.

Pluto takes you to the heart of darkness via the past and family life, then brings you out the other side transformed.

Uranus upturns the status quo, which could mean sudden moves.

## Transits to 5th House

The Sun’s annual visit adds buoyancy, a festive air, and a boost to self-confidence.

The Moon’s passing brings out melodrama and heightens emotions.

Mercury seeks channels through which to share a unique vision of life.

Venus opens the door to new friendships and romances that begins on a high-spirited note.

Mars puts you on the hunt for adventure and love action.

Jupiter boosts your inner artist and may make you cocky, with the confidence to be your grandest self.

Saturn temporarily curbs your enthusiasm, but fosters discipline and a sageful appreciation for the leisure arts.

Neptune makes love a drug, or brings mystical themes into the imagination.

Pluto's long transit turns your creative life inside out so the core essence can emerge.

Uranus brings revolution and freedom to experience new levels of pleasure.

## Transits to 6th House

The Sun's annual visit helps get your physical house in order or brings on a period of purging, cleaning, and organizing.

The Moon's passing reminds you to nurture mind, body, and spirit.

Mercury's eye is focused on details like getting papers in order and any editing or refining work.

Venus treats her body as a temple, and may find love on the job.

Mars takes action to change habits, and has energy for a well-rounded day.

Jupiter looks for a sense of purpose in work; breakthroughs in health give a boost to well-being.

Saturn urges a good use of time and may use illness as a message to take better care.

Neptune puts a spiritual spin on your lifework, and brings imagination into your projects.

Pluto takes you to the terrifying soul depths in order to reach a higher level of health or sense of purpose.

Uranus rattles your cage to find more freedom in work; an accident or shock sends you down another career path.

## Transits to 7th House

The Sun's annual visit warms up your relationships and keep you busy in tandem.

The Moon passing over draws emotional needs to the surface for heart-to-hearts.

Mercury's focus helps you mentally see what needs balancing, and boosts your rapport with others.

Venus brings you a new love or friendship that's destined to be important.

Mars draws you into working partnerships, where two heads are better than one.

Jupiter sends friends, lovers, and allies your way, and puts a shine on your public images.

Saturn performs a clearing of casual relationships, and pushes for more purposeful connections.  
Jupiter casts glamourous relationships that look like true love, but can also bring encounters that seem mystically fated.

Pluto makes love a matter of life and death, taking you through purifying fires (breakups, divorce) so a new vision can rise from the ashes.

Uranus brings sudden jolts to free yourself from relationship constraints, or draws you to unconventional love arrangements.

## Transits to 8th House

The Sun's annual visit kindles the sexual fires, and opens you to soul searching.

The Moon heightens psychic awareness and intensifies emotions.

Mercury probes the subterranean layers of any situation, or roots out hidden motives.

Venus smolders here, and you're apt to turn heads and arouse passions.

Mars moves stealthily, making it a good time to handle predatory people.

Jupiter sends you on a journey to the underworld, to return with hidden treasure.

Saturn gives you the caution and persistence to mine your depths in a slow structured way.

Pluto draws you to the mysteries of life and death, and events meant to show you that there's a spirit essence that's eternal.  
Uranus brings out your inner freak in the bedroom, or surprising twists and turns in your finances.

## Transits to 9th House

The Sun's annual visit inspires travel plans, movement, and socializing.

The Moon heightens intuition mixed with your own emotional intelligence.

Mercury craves experiential knowledge from journeying or philosophizing with others.

Venus travels light, craving stimulation, swiftness, and diversity in relationships.

Mars moves toward feats of endurance of the mind, body, or spirit.

Jupiter kindles your enthusiasm to roam the outer reaches of knowledge and the planet.

Saturn presses you to put forth what you've learned, and step into a teacher role.

Neptune puts a romantic spin on travel and knowledge seeking, and can lead to clouded perceptions.

Pluto tries to break you of rigid beliefs, especially if they've turned into prisons of the soul.

Uranus opens you to explore exotic religions, or seek liberation through spiritual questing.

## Transits to 10th House

The Sun's annual journey boosts your power mojo, and is a good time to review career goals.

The Moon makes you emotional about your status in the world.

Mercury's sober eyes help you sort out issues with authority, or plan out a long-term project.

Venus shines at work, and may bring you respect or admiration.

Mars raises your capacity to work hard, and persevere.

Jupiter brings a lucky turn with career, and shows you new paths of possibility.

Saturn puts nose to the grindstone, which brings structurally sound progress and tangible rewards.

Neptune can bring disillusion to work, or bring you a detour into fields demanding imagination.

Pluto draws out your potential as a transformer of culture for a total career overhaul.

Uranus prods you to bust out of limiting work and seek an authentic, possibly unusual path.

## Transits to 11th House

The Sun's annual visit draws out your social side and your need to be one unique strand in the tapestry of a group.

The Moon craves stimulating company, and to feel the undulations of the many.



Mercury seeks to bounce ideas off others, as a way of refining its perception.

Venus delights in casual meetings, and makes new contacts in the group setting.

Mars adds force and carries an urge to shock others into action.

Jupiter guides you to alliances that expand your possibilities.

Saturn prods you to let go of associations that no longer serve a purpose.

Neptune adds fog to your social life, perhaps romancing you with illusions about certain "friends" that aren't true.

Pluto transforms your relationship to the greater whole, as a source of personal power.

Uranus shakes you awake from dead alliances, and brings unusual people in and out of your life.

## Transits to 12th House

The Sun's annual visit makes you reflective and leaves you longing to retreat from chaos.

The Moon fosters a time of seclusion when you can rest and dream.

Mercury finds buried treasure of the imagination that seems to speak to universal themes.

Venus brings cloistered love or an illicit affair, or confers transcendent feeling to your relationships.

Mars goes underground, making this a good time for active soul searching.

Jupiter opens the doors of spiritual discovery, or expands your understanding of life's unseen dimensions.

Saturn forces you to face fears and create a more stable psychological foundation.

Neptune enhances imaginative gifts and intensifies the longing to commune with spirit.

Pluto looks to compost what's in the "dust bin of the zodiac" and turn it into the fertilizer for new life.

Uranus brings sudden awakenings about who you are, and your true potential as a divine being.

# A QUICK GUIDE TO THE HOUSES

## *The 1<sup>st</sup> House*

- The degree of your Ascendant begins your 1st House, but some planets may be in the next zodiac sign. Planets in the 12th House, close to the Ascendant, act on the personality in subtle ways.

The polarity is to the 7th House, where identity meets the other in its many guises. Your House and Ascendant qualities become prominent in later years.

- These planets are part of your first impression on others. There may be high-vitality planets, or those that inhibit your personality. Planets here influence how others respond to you.

## *The 2<sup>nd</sup> House*

- Like the 6th and 10th, this “work house” deals with establishing and growing a personal foundation. Planets in the 1st House near the cusp of the 2nd show where your identity is merged with themes of self-sufficiency and wealth. Planets in the 3rd House near the cusp of the 2nd show how you disperse your talents in the changing marketplace.
- The opposite house is the 8th, which centers on people’s money and assets. Planets here influence money luck, whether there’s a sense of limitation or abundance. They shape attitudes about making the most of resources.

## *The 3<sup>rd</sup> House*

- Planets in the 2nd House near the 3rd House cusp show where social exchanges influence the way you create abundance. Planets in the 4th House near the 3rd House cusp show a blending of home and public life.

Planets here reveal how the early social scene shaped your conscious views, and whether or not they’re set in stone. This house rules early school life, and reveals your attitude to learning and your peers.

- High-energy planets here vitalize your capacity to socialize. This house is media central.

### *The 4<sup>th</sup> House*

- The sign on the 4th House cusp provides the ambient emotional lighting in your home. Planets along the 3rd/4th House cusp bring the stirrings of the public sphere into the private. Planets along the 4th/5th House cusp make your home life the raw material in areas of creative self-expression, play, romance, hobbies, and fun.
- This house determines whether you stay put for years or change homes often. Planets here reveal what your early home environment was like. They determine how you find emotional security and the imprint of your family.

### *The 5<sup>th</sup> House*

- This house indicates whether there will be children, or obstacles to parenthood. Planets here dampen or compel a psychological need to shine and create.
- Planets in the 4th House near the 5th House cusp make the past and ancestral traditions inspiration for creative ideas. Planets here indicate how you celebrate life through parties, holidays and romance. They reveal your attitude about children, and how central parenting is in your life. They show your capacity for creative self-expression and leadership.

### *The 6<sup>th</sup> House*

- Planets in the 5th House near the 6th House cusp draw you to fun, healthy habits. Planets in the 7th House near the 6th House cusp mean you share your routine.
- The Virgin aspect to this house requires solitude to maintain inner unity. Your standards of clean and purification are found here. Planets here show your attitude about work. This shapes your sense of service to others, as a volunteer or caretaker. Planets here determine how you sacrifice for the common good, by being helpful or through a lifetime commitment.

## *The 7<sup>th</sup> House*

- The sign on the cusp of the 7th House is the Descendant, at the degree it was descending over the western horizon. Its polarity, the 1st House of Identity, reveals the balance between the self-image alone and when with a partner.
- Planets in the 6th House near the 7th House cusp may lead to a marriage of partners who work and play together. Planets in the 8th House near the 7th House cusp add passion. Planets here color your attitude about relating to others, whether the public at large, a friend, competitor, mate. They show luck in marriage and friendships.

## *The 8<sup>th</sup> House*

- The polarity is the 2nd House of Personal Wealth, and here we have marriage or shared family assets or debts. This house shows your capacity to shed your skin and go through symbolic death stages.
  - Planets in the 9th House along the 8th House cusp turn your interests into a full-fledged pursuit of knowledge. Planets in the 7th House along the 8th House cusp mean your plunges into soul depths are shared experiences.
- Planets here determine your capacity for extreme transformation and healing.

## *The 9<sup>th</sup> House*

- The polarity is the 3rd House, where information churns in a kaleidoscope of shifting fragments. What's sought in the 9th House is the wisdom of the ages, as part of the evolving human story.
- Planets in the 8th House near the 9th House cusp add a fascination with rituals of life and death, the occult, or human extremes to your vision quest. Planets in the 10th House, near the 9th House cusp, bring fame or public notoriety as a seeker, teacher, or wise one.
- Planets here show your affinity for higher education and lifelong learning.

## *The 10<sup>th</sup> House*

- The polarity is the 4th House of home and family inheritance; the 10th involves the public realm and traditions of society at large. While the 4th is traditionally the house of Mother, the 10th belongs to Father, and those in the role of authority. Planets in the 9th House, near the 10th House cusp, can lead to status as a holder of knowledge.
  - Planets in the 11th House, near the 10th House cusp, give you the ability to lead and inspire groups. Planets here show how important it is to have status in the public sphere. They shape your ability to set long-term goals and achieve them.
- 

## *The 11<sup>th</sup> House*

- The polarity—the 5th House of Personal Self-Expression—turns creativity into a collaborative act. The sign on the cusp of this house shows your friendship style and what kinds of group activities you're drawn to.
  - Planets in the 10th House near the 11th House cusp bring fame through an ability to sway the masses. Planets in the 12th House near the 11th House cusp tune you in to the undercurrent of the collective.
  - Planets here show how you collaborate with like minds to achieve a goal.
- 

## *The 12<sup>th</sup> House*

- The polarity is the 6th House. Both lead you to self-sacrifice, either in a destructive way or as the path to a spiritual ideal. It's suggestive of the Dark Moon phase, a time of retreat and the pursuit of soul resolution.
  - Planets in the 11th House, near the 12th House cusp, lead you to sharing your deepest self as part of a collective journey. Planets in the 1st House, near the 12th House cusp, are barely submerged aspects of your persona.
  - This house is the meditation room and portal to the Great All.
-

# GLOSSARY

**Air Signs:** The air signs are Libra, Aquarius, and Gemini; they are associated with intellect, ideas, and sociability.

**Angular Houses:** They are the 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th Houses, and are known as the action houses.

**Ascendant (ASC):** Also known as the rising sign, it's the zodiac sign rising on the eastern horizon at the moment of your birth. It shapes your outward-facing persona, physical attributes, and style.

**Aspects:** These are the angles that exist among planets in a chart, and denote a relationship of tension or harmony. The five main aspects are the conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition.

**Birth Chart:** Also known as natal chart, this is the map that shows the position of the planets and fixed stars (zodiac) at the moment of your birth.

**Cadent Houses:** They are the 6th, 9th, and 12th Houses, and are associated with synthesis of information, refinement, and change.

**Cardinal Signs:** The cardinal signs are Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn; they carry the energy of initiation and new beginnings.

**Conjunction:** A meaningful aspect that has two planets or points (like the Ascendant) close together (within 0 to 5 degrees) on the birth chart.

**Composite:** A method of casting a relationship chart using the midpoints between the planets of two birth charts.

**Cusp:** The border of two houses or two zodiac signs. It's often used to describe someone born close to the end or beginning of a zodiac Sun sign.

**Decan (Decanate):** The sections of a sign by 10-degree intervals, with each sign having three decanates.

**Degree:** The unit used to measure the circle. The zodiac has 360 degrees, or 12 signs of 30 degrees each.

**Descendant (DSC):** The degree of the zodiac sign descending over the western horizon. This sign on the 7th House cusp influences your style of relating one-on-one and attitudes about marriage and commitment.

**Direct Motion:** The apparent forward motion of a planet through the zodiac.

**Earth Signs:** The earth signs are Capricorn, Taurus, and Virgo; they are associated with a grounded and commonsensical outlook.

**Eclipse:** The blocking of the Sun by the Moon (solar) and the blocking of the Moon by the Sun (lunar). Eclipses are known to trigger turning-point events in our lives.

**Ecliptic:** The belt of fixed stars (the zodiac) around the Earth, against which the Sun travels in its orbit.

**Electional Astrology:** The branch of astrology in which charts are cast to discern favorable timing for life decisions such as getting married, moving, or traveling.

**Elements:** The four elements are fire, earth, air, and water; they correspond to instinctive (fire), practical (earth), intellectual (air), and emotional (water) temperaments.

**Ephemeris:** A reference almanac that lists the astronomical positions of the planets.

**Feminine Signs:** These are the earth (Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn) and water (Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces) signs. The feminine, "negative" polarity relates to the yin qualities of receptivity.

**Fire Signs:** The fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius; they are known to be enthusiastic, motivating, action-oriented, and inspired.



**Fixed Signs:** The fixed signs are Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius; they carry the energy of sustained and thorough effort.

**Galactic Center:** The center of the Milky Way galaxy, which is located at 26 degrees Sagittarius.

**Glyphs:** The symbols that represent the planets or points in the chart, as well as the aspects.

**Hard Aspects:** The tough aspects, like the square and opposition, that call on us to persevere through trial and error to overcome challenges.

**Hemisphere:** The divisions of the horoscope into upper and lower halves, and right- and left-hand sides. Take note that in astrology, they are named in a counterintuitive way, with upper (southern) and lower (northern), and right-hand (eastern) and left-hand (western).

**Horary Astrology:** A branch of astrology in which charts are cast with a question in mind, as a kind of divination.

**Horoscope:** The word means “hour watcher,” from the Greek *hora* (hour) and *skopos* (watcher). It’s used to describe the predictions for each Sun sign in pop media, but in the field of astrology, it’s the chart cast for a particular moment in time.

**Houses:** The 12 divisions of the chart, with each signifying a sphere of life experience.

**Imum Coeli (IC):** The point at the 4th House cusp opposite the Midheaven (MC); it’s associated with the past, family heritage, and private inner life.

**Ingress:** The moment when a transiting planet enters a new zodiac sign.

**Luminaries:** Also known as the Lights, the Luminaries are the Sun and Moon, the celestial bodies that illuminate day and night.

**Lunation:** This begins with the New Moon each month and lasts 29 days. Also called the lunation cycle.

**Masculine Signs:** These are the fire (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) and air (Libra, Aquarius, Gemini) signs. The masculine “positive” polarity relates to the yang qualities of assertion.

**Medium Coeli (MC):** This is also known as the Midheaven. The apex of the chart, it’s associated with career aspirations, legacy, and public acclaim.

**Mundane Astrology:** The branch of astrology that looks at collective geopolitical events, including natural disasters, financial trends, and historic turning points.

**Mutable Signs:** The mutable signs are Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces; they carry the energy of rearranging, adapting, evolving, and dissemination.

**Natal Astrology:** The branch of astrology concerned with the interpretation of birth charts.

**Opposition:** The aspect that has a planet 180 degrees from another in the chart. Often there’s a favoring of one or the other, until a balance of these conflicting energies is reached.

**Orb of Influence:** The range of degrees in which an aspect is considered to be in play. For a major aspect like the square, the orb of influence is the area within 5 degrees of being an exact 90-degree relationship.

**Polarity:** The balance in a chart between yin (feminine) and yang (masculine) elements. It also refers to the opposition of signs on the zodiac.

**Quadrant:** There are four quadrants, each with three houses, beginning with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. As a division, each quadrant represents an area of life structure.

**Qualities:** Also called the modalities or quadruplicity, these are cardinal (initiation), fixed (building up), and mutable (dissolution).

Qualities relate to the way a sign behaves, and its life rhythm.

**Retrograde:** The illusion that a planet is moving backward based on how it appears from the Earth. All planets have a retrograde cycle except for the Luminaries (Sun and Moon). When a planet is in retrograde, its currents are overlapped onto itself, and that leads to distortion, or seeing the "past" from new angles.

**Rulership:** This is the governance of a zodiac sign (or signs) by a planet, as the archetype that best conveys the universal essence of that sign.

**Sextile:** A favorable aspect in which planets are 60 degrees apart. A sextile is a point of flow that enhances other favorable aspects, or softens harsh ones.

**Sidereal Zodiac:** Used in sidereal astrology, a system based on the actual position of the constellations; the more commonly used tropical zodiac is based on the seasons.

**Soft Aspects:** These are the points of support and harmony among planets, often bringing natural talents and opportunities. Two are the sextile and trine.

**Solstice:** The point at which the Sun achieves its farthest reach north or south.

**Square:** A challenging aspect in which planets are 90 degrees apart. The built-in tension can cause frustration and stress, but it's also a inner conflict that guides you to overcoming through effort.

**Stellium:** A group of three or more planets close in orb, and positioned in the same sign and/or house. It's a powerful concentration of energies, and any stellium denotes a meaningful theme in the chart.

**Succedent Houses:** These are the 5th, 8th, and 11th Houses, and are associated with bringing plans to fruition and fully developing natural gifts and resources.

**Synastry:** Using astrology to compare two charts as a tool to understand the dynamics of a relationship.

**Trine:** A major harmonious aspect in which planets are 120 degrees apart. The trines in a chart show where luck and ease are present.

**T-square:** A matrix of tension in the chart, made up of planets in opposition (180 degrees) with one or more additional planets squaring these at 90 degrees.

**Triplicity:** Three signs of the same element.

**Void-of-Course:** Most often used in reference to the Moon, this is the time when a planet is not in contact (forming aspects) to other planets, before it goes into the next sign.

**Water Signs:** The water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces. They are associated with enhanced intuition, feeling, and imagination.

**Zodiac:** The band of fixed constellations that wrap around the Earth on the ecliptic. The signs of the zodiac are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces.

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